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THURSDAY, MAY 14TH, 2015

Vinegar cake and a sing song in VE Day party
Page 6

READ THE GEM TOTALLY FREE EVERY WEEK ONLINE!
SIMPLY FOLLOW THE LINK MARKED 'THIS WEEK' FROM OUR WEBSITE

This year's general election analysis.
Page 16

Feeding frenzy
The Cowbridge Food Festival is almost here!

EXCITEMENT is building in the Vale ahead of the Bank Holiday weekend, when the Cowbridge Food & Drink Festival makes its debut in May (24-25).

The Vale market town joined the Welsh food festival calendar 11 years ago – and the event rapidly became a huge success, despite being hit once or twice by grim October weather.

However, last year the organisers decided to give October a miss, and transfer instead to warmer climes in May.

Now, Cowbridge is gearing up for two days of gourmet delight at the food festival, while local hostelries will be stretching their beer festival over all four days of the bank holiday.

To satisfy the *Masterchef* viewer, there will be demonstrations from top chefs, while traders from around Wales and further afield will be offering a vast range of culinary delicacies in the main festival marquee.

This year, an even wider range of family-friendly attractions has been arranged to occupy children, so mum and dad can have a good look around!

• *See special five-page feature on pages 21-25.*

ABOVE: There was success for Brynteg School's year-9 rugby team in the Welsh Cup – see a full report on page 44.

DOUBLE TRIUMPH FOR LABOUR...

Mrs Moon retains seat, but Tories target 2020

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

Bridgend county borough's two parliamentary constituencies were both won by Labour – a pair of seats going to plan on a night when there were so many shocks in other areas.

However, Madeleine Moon's majority in Bridgend fell slightly, from 2,263 to 1,927, and the Conservatives wrned that they would be targeting the seat next time round.

Huw Irranca-Davies defended Ogmore, which confirmed its position as Labour's safest seat in Wales.

It was a night when pollsters were left with egg on their faces and even those hard-nosed realists, the betting companies, found their predictions going awry.

This was best demonstrated by comparing Bridgend and the neighbouring Vale of Glamorgan.

The two incumbents, Mrs Moon and Alun Cairns were both favourites with all the betting companies, but the odds were very different.

Mr Cairns was defending a majority of 4,000 and was priced at 3/1 on. Mrs Moon, defending a smaller majority of 2,263, was nevertheless a red hot favourite rating of 25/1 on. On that rating, the one to race home with an increased majority should have been Madeleine Moon, but in fact it was Mr Cairns, who now has a majority of almost 7,000.

There were, of course, differences between the seats.

The Vale was fiercely contested by Labour and the Conservatives, as the seat was No 63 on labour's target list. Both sides threw considerable resources at it.

In contrast, Bridgend was a low-key campaign, due largely to the sad death of Madeleine Moon's husband, Steve.

It meant that Labour did not campaign at all for the first three weeks.

On election night, she was conscious of this, and made a point of apologising, and thanking the other candidates for their understanding in her acceptance speech.

The Conservatives were encouraged by eating into Mrs Moon's majority, and a source indicated that they would be targeting Bridgend in future elections, saying: "Meirion Jenkins was an excellent candidate who fought the seat with great determination – even though he broke his leg early in the campaign."

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 13)

YOUR CHANCE TO SHARE THE COMMUNITY NEWS...

NORTH BRIDGEND NEWS

A message for all readers in the north of Bridgend who would like to have items included in the community news columns of The GEM:

If you wish to submit reports on any social activity in this region, please contact me.

I am very approachable and will endeavour to include every newsworthy subject.

Contact details: CLIVE MITCHELL
1 Tyn-Y-Coed Close, Sarn, Bridgend CF32 9NQ
TEL: 01656 725399
email: tynycoed1@yahoo.co.uk

History talk

BRIDGEND branch of the Glamorgan Family History Society at the Len Evans Centre, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig will be holding its next meeting on Monday, May 18 at 7pm.

Visitors are welcome. The speaker, Mr Chris Thomas will be talking about two families from Coity – the Thomases and the Davids. He will also talk on the House of Windsor.

Bradley benefit

AN entertainment evening at the Nantymoel Social Club (Top Club) tomorrow (Friday, May 15) at 7pm, is being held to help support eight-year-old Cerebal Palsy sufferer Bradley, who has recently gone through the trauma of having two major hip operations.

His family needs to raise £4,000 so that Bradley can receive an intensive course of physiotherapy.

The entertainment will be provided by Ogmore Valley Male Voice Choir.

Open day

THE Garw Valley Railway Society was set up to preserve the railway system from Pontycymer to Tondu.

On Bank Holiday Monday, May 25, from 10am to 4pm, the charity will be holding an open day (free of charge) in the Pontycymer railway sheds.

Members have been busily renovating a steam engine and they have two class 108 diesel engines on display; also three miniature railway systems ten inch, five and a half inch and zero zero gauge.

The society welcomes volunteers to assist in renovating the railway system. Full training will be provided on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 9.30am.

Two choirs

AS part of its summer season of concerts, Bridgend Male Choir will have as its guests a choir from New Jersey, USA at St Mary's Catholic Church, Ewenny Road, Bridgend, on Friday, May 22 at 7pm.

It will be the Rutgers University Glee Club's only performance in south Wales on its UK and European tour, having travelled from Gloucester Cathedral, where it performs earlier in the day. During the weekend it will lead the singing at Oxford's St John the Evangelist Church and the Royal Naval Conservatoire at Greenwich.

Admission is £5. Tickets from Porters Estate Agents, Nolton Street or Bridgend's secretary, Gareth Reese on 07773 170373.

WI sale

BRYNCETHIN Women's Institute is holding a cake and craft table sale on May 21 from 7pm to 9pm at Bryncethin Memorial Hall (on the A4061 opposite the primary school), to which the public is invited.

Ladies' choir

ON May 22 at 7pm there will be a memorial concert by Côr Merched Cwm Llynfi (Llynfi Valley Ladies' Choir) at Our Lady and St Patrick's Catholic Church, Monica Street, Maesteg, in recognition of Rita Catt and her involvement with both organisations.

Also taking part are soloists Rhydian Jenkins and Aled Williams.

Tickets cost £5 obtainable from choristers or members of the church. The money raised will be used to benefit the church's restoration fund.

The ladies' choir is organising a fundraising coffee morning at the Old House, Llangynwyd on Saturday, June 6 from 10am – 12 noon. Tickets £3, available from choir members.

Aberkenfig WI

ON May 5, 12 members of Aberkenfig & District WI attended the 100th annual meeting of Glamorgan Federation of Women's Institutes in the Princess Royal Theatre, Port Talbot with 528 members from 35 institutes present.

Ann Jones, Federation of Wales Chair, told about her life as a farmer's wife in Carmarthenshire.

There is a lot happening in Glamorgan Federation this year; Glamorgan Show is on July 25 in North Cornelly Community Centre and public hall at 10am – 5pm. It is open to the public.

The Plough Singers from Whitchurch, a male voice choir, sang a variety of popular songs finishing with 'When the Red, Red, Robin comes Bobbing Along', which everyone joined in with.

This choir has raised £30,000 for the Alzheimer's Society over the 25 years they have been together.

The speaker for the afternoon, John Craven, who was awarded his OBE for services to children's and rural television, told the story of his life – starting as a junior reporter for the Harrogate Advertiser, then his move to television and *Countryfile*.

Aberkenfig & District WI meets on the second Wednesday of each month in the Len Evans Centre, Heol Persondy, Aberkenfig, at 2pm. Visitors and new members are always welcome. The next meeting is the 34th anniversary of Aberkenfig WI on June 10.

For more information, call Dilys on 01656 725399 or visit www.cobwebs.com.

Star pupil

I WOULD like to thank James for the information on Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen (Ynysawdre Comprehensive School) head girl, Charlotte Evans, who is the first pupil there to have secured a conditional offer from Cambridge University's Selwyn College to study law.

At GCSE level, Charlotte attained 9-A*s and 4-As, which included 3-BTECs. She is studying BTEC music, English, mathematics and religious studies at A-level.

In 2012, the school became the first 1:1 iPad school in Wales – every student has their own iPad that they use in and out of the classroom.

'Porthcawl car park ruinous for high heels,' SAYS A TORY AM

SHADOW Welsh Tourism Minister Suzy Davies is calling for Porthcawl's main car park to be upgraded.

The Welsh Conservative regional AM for South Wales West, said that the Hillsboro Place car park was in a disgraceful state.

"This is the gateway to Porthcawl town centre and it gives a terrible impression to visitors," she said. "It is full of potholes and there are whole areas where there is no proper surfacing – just loose gravel. It is ruinous on high heels and almost impossible for someone pushing a wheelchair or a pushchair to negotiate.

"It simply is not good enough – either for Porthcawl residents wishing to support local shops, or the thousands of visitors who come to the resort."

Mrs Davies is writing to Bridgend County Borough Council, which owns the car park, urging it to invest money into it.

She said: "BCBC make money from this car park. As they know, parking charges are supposed to be reinvested in parking services. There's nowhere in more obvious need of improvement than Hillsboro Place, or the walk route from the car park to John Street.

"I know that things were put on hold because of the Porthcawl Regeneration Plan, which would have seen the car park being used as the site for the proposed new supermarket, but the supermarket scheme is dead in the water.

"Nobody is going to build on this site for the foreseeable future, so the council must move on and do this work which is long overdue.

"Nobody knows what will happen with Porthcawl regeneration but the town has been left in limbo for almost two decades waiting for something that may never happen.

Spending some money now on this car park will at least help residents and traders while we are waiting," she added.

'Beware bogus firms' – warning

TRADING Standards officers are warning local businesses and community groups to be "on the look-out" for fake companies claiming to represent advertising magazines and publishing houses.

Some departments within BCBC have recently reported receiving phone calls from so-called advertising agencies seeking upfront payment for an advert in a new publication.

They said further investigations revealed calls may have come from made-up businesses. The rogue companies' websites can be very convincing, but often the information given about local distribution appears to be bogus.

BCBC Leader Coun Mel Nott, said: "While there are legitimate agencies that offer paid advertising in their publications, there are also rogue companies that will charge for advertising space that doesn't exist."

Porthcawl Comprehensive School's Green FIT scheme!

Pupils show a keen interest in the school's energy policy.

PUPILS at Porthcawl Comprehensive, particularly those on the eco committee, are delighted that the school is leading the way with renewable energy.

This Easter saw the continuation of a project which was started last April with the arrival of our first set of Photovoltaic (PV) solar panels from Jehu Energy Solutions based in Bridgend.

The Solar PV installation was positioned on top of the music rooms and for the last year has been actively soaking up the sunlight and feeding energy back to the national grid.

This Easter saw the project taken a step further with the installation of new Solar PV systems above one English room, as well as the Sixth Form Hall. These additional panels will significantly boost the amount of energy produced, with energy continuing to be converted at weekends and during the school holidays even when the rest of the school is closed.

Headteacher Mr Andrew Slade said: "The project has three long-term benefits for our school. We have reduced our carbon footprint, the electricity generated means the school has to buy less, and the school receives payment for electricity fed back into the grid.

"These are all long-term goals that are part of a sustainable strategy for our school."

Mr Marc Jehu of Jehu Energy Solutions said: "It's great to see schools like Porthcawl taking advantage of the Government's Feed In Tariff (FIT) scheme. The headteacher clearly recognises the significant benefits of investing in solar. I am certain many schools will be looking to follow suit in the near future, before the FIT scheme closes its books."

NE

Welsh poet who fell in love with Italy

THE well-known Welsh poet, John Ormond, will be the subject of a talk entitled: 'John Ormond and Cortona', by the poet's daughter Rian Evans, editor of Ormond's 'Collected Poems' (Seren).

Writer Robert Minhinnick will speak about the "impossibly positioned" Tuscan town where the poet made his home. John Ormond's poetry will also be performed.

Green Room, Sustainable Wales, 5 James Street, Porthcawl CF36 3BG on Friday, May 29, 8pm.

John Ormond's *Collected Poems* is on sale now at Sussed (same address).

The talk will be followed by an open mic. Entry to all, £3.

HIGH TIDE TIMES

(UNTIL MAY 21)

The high tides listed in this week's GEM are those in Porthcawl. It should be remembered that along the coast, high tide times will vary. For instance, in Barry, the high point will be 20 – 25 minutes later.

DATE	Time AM	Ht M	Time PM	Ht M
14 Thur	03.28	8.6	16.06	8.8
15 Fri	04.33	9.1	17.07	9.2
16 Sat	05.33	9.5	18.02	9.6
17 Sun	06.25	9.9	18.49	10.0
18 Mon	07.14	10.1	19.36	10.1
19 Tues	07.59	10.1	20.18	10.1
20 Wed	08.42	9.9	20.59	9.9
21 Thur	09.23	9.8	21.42	9.7

While The GEM makes every effort to check the accuracy of tide tables, we recommend that anyone putting out to sea, or walking in an area where they could be cut off, should check with a tide table specific to their location.

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Head girl Charlotte has an offer from Cambridge

Charlotte Evans.

A PUPIL from Coleg Cymunedol Y Dderwen (CCYD) has been accepted at a top Cambridge College, where she will study law.

A school spokesman said: "We would like to congratulate our head girl, Charlotte Evans, as she is the first pupil from CCYD to secure an offer from Cambridge to study law at the prestigious Selwyn College.

"Charlotte needs just one A* and two As at A-Level to be accepted at the college, and this is well within her grasp".

Charlotte is studying BTEC music, English, maths and religious studies at A-Level. She thoroughly loves being a pupil at the school and has always shown a passion for learning.

At GCSE Charlotte gained nine A*s and four As, including three BTECS.

When asked about her work ethic and philosophy, Charlotte said: "The only person who can get you where you want to be is yourself, take advantage of every opportunity you can get!"

The school wishes Charlotte every success in her A-Levels and look forward to hearing about her career in Law.

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CARDIFF CROWN COURT ROUND-UP by AJ SICLUNA

Pregnant mother is spared jail after striking man

A PREGNANT mother of one, who struck a man in a club with a cider bottle, has been spared a prison sentence at Cardiff Crown Court.

Lucy Ellis (18), hit Jack Sweetland with a bottle during a row in Kenfig Hill's Labour Club.

"She split open his forehead," said Judge Stephen Hopkins QC.

Ellis of Heol-y-Cynffig, North Cornelly, admitted a charge of wounding. She was sentenced to a year in a young offender institution, suspended for two years, and made subject to an electronically-tagged curfew for four months between 7pm and 7am.

"The choice before me is very stark and custody would be appropriate, but it is just possible to suspend the sentence," said the Judge.

Prosecutor John Warren said that on New Year's Eve, Mr Sweetland was with friends in the club. In his group, was the defendant and they were playing a "drinking game".

Ellis, he said, made derogatory comments about Mr Sweetland's girlfriend and he defended her character.

"The argument became heated, with the pair screaming at each other," said Mr Warren.

Ellis lost her temper and grabbed Mr Sweetland around the throat and began to squeeze.

"She would not calm down and she picked up the bottle and struck him on the forehead. Fortunately, it didn't smash on impact, but he was injured and dazed and in pain."

Later, he was taken to the Princess of Wales Hospital, where the wound was glued.

Ellis was found to be heavily intoxicated and was told to leave.

Mr Warren said she later admitted hitting him but said she had not intended to hurt him. She admitted being drunk on a scale of eight out of ten.

The prosecutor said that she later told the police she had "pushed the bottle" rather than swinging it.

In a victim impact statement, Mr Sweetland said the attack had affected his self-confidence and he had been out socially only once since the incident, which he described as "sudden and unprovoked".

The Court heard that Ellis had twice been cautioned for offences of causing actual bodily harm and battery.

Her solicitor, Robert Chudleigh, produced two character references.

At the time, he said, she was heavily under the influence of alcohol.

"Since then, she has reflected on her actions and there is a huge amount of remorse.

"She has not enjoyed the early stages of her pregnancy because of the case."

Judge Hopkins said that in the past, she had punched and kicked two persons and had also been the victim of an abusive relationship.

The scar suffered by Mr Sweetland was likely to be permanent, he said.

He warned her: "This will be the very last chance you get."

The Judge imposed a five-year restraining order on Ellis, banning her from having any contact with Mr Sweetland.

Suspended sentence for cannabis supplier

POLICE who attended a domestic incident in Bridgend, ended up arresting a man on the premises for drugs offences, Cardiff Crown Court has heard.

Jamie Whitehead (27), formerly of Kenfig Hill, admitted being concerned in the supply of cannabis from May to November last year and possessing the drug with intent to supply.

He was jailed for eight months, suspended for two years, and ordered to carry out 50 hours unpaid work.

Said Mrs Justice Carr: "There can be no doubt that the custody threshold has been passed in this case, but I am giving you a chance.

"Any breach and you will go straight to prison," she said.

Prosecutor John Lloyd said that a domestic incident occurred in Bridgend and Whitehead was arrested.

On him was three grammes of cannabis, £905, digital scales and plastic packets.

Mr Lloyd said he told the police: "That money is my rent money."

He made off, said Mr Lloyd, was chased and caught. He said he had purchased the drugs the night before.

His home was searched and a cannabis grinder was found, more plastic bags and a number of mobile phones with various text messages containing requests for cannabis.

Mr Lloyd said that when interviewed, he largely declined to comment.

He was said to have a previous conviction for possessing cannabis with intent to supply, assault and battery.

Whitehead's solicitor, Rhodri Chudleigh, said: "He has had a difficult upbringing and began taking drugs from a very early age.

"He has difficulty coping with his emotions and takes cannabis to control them. He is currently addicted."

Mr Chudleigh said he is looking for work, was living with various friends and was attempting to address his problems.

The Judge ordered that the £905 be forfeited, as well as the mobile phones and drugs paraphernalia.

'Positive' report on Caerau Primary School

STAFF, pupils and governors at Caerau Primary School have been given a "positive report" by schools inspection body Estyn following a visit in January.

Estyn judged the school's provision to be "good", together with learning experiences, care, support and guidance, learning environments and partnership working.

Although Estyn said that the school's current performance was "adequate", inspectors identified that many pupils were making good progress in developing their speaking and listening skills.

Most pupils made good progress in developing their numeracy skills, and almost all pupils enjoyed school, the report added.

The headteacher was enthusiastic and had a clear vision for the school, while many individual leaders managed their areas of responsibility effectively, and many useful partnerships were having a beneficial impact on pupils' wellbeing, Estyn said.

The report included recommendations to improve standards in reading, writing, attendance and punctuality, and to resolve the way senior leadership roles were distributed. The school will now draw up a post inspection action plan and will be monitored by Estyn.

Coun Huw David, cabinet member for children and young people, said: "There are a number of positives to take from this Estyn report and I'm confident that the school can address the recommendations that have been made.

All of the children and staff work hard, and we will be working closely with the school to ensure that they continue to flourish and thrive so that they can reach their full potential."

Headteacher John Bibby added: "We are satisfied with the outcome of the Estyn inspection, and acknowledge that while there are several positives to take out of it, there are also areas where we need to improve.

To this end, we look forward to working with the ongoing support of the parents, teachers, governors, pupils and the local authority."

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Pupils from Heronsbridge School are working with green-fingered expert Anthea Guthrie on a garden that will feature in the Hampton Court Palace Flower Show next month.

Pupils are heading for Hampton Court

The Winnie the Pooh themed garden marks the loveable bear's 70th birthday.

Heronsbridge pupils enjoy their regular gardening sessions with Anthea Guthrie.

SPECIAL needs children from Bridgend are working on a unique garden that will take centre stage at the prestigious Hampton Court Palace Flower Show next month.

Pupils from Heronsbridge School and Ysgol Bryn Castell are busy preparing a Winnie the Pooh themed garden which will be one of four 'history' gardens on display at the world-renowned show, which takes place in London from June 30 to July 5.

Award-winning garden designer Anthea Guthrie, who visits the two schools to teach pupils about gardening throughout the year, came up with the idea of a Winnie the Pooh theme to mark the loveable bear's 90th birthday.

Winnie the Pooh first appeared in 1925, and the garden includes a woodland shelter similar to the one in which author AA Milne created his most famous character after being inspired by his son Christopher Robin Milne.

Anthea's adventurous design also includes a woodland clearing where characters including Roo and Tigger are having a picnic, as well as a bridge where Winnie and Piglet can play a game of Poohsticks.

Anthea said: "As always, the children have been joining in enthusiastically and are making and growing all sorts of stuff for the show garden. Hampton Court is such a huge show and it is really exciting that our garden has been accepted to be on display in the history section."

It is the fourth show garden that Heronsbridge and Ysgol Bryn Castell pupils have worked on with Anthea, with one previous design picking up the gold prize at the RHS Cardiff Show in 2013.

Heronsbridge headteacher Glynis James said: "Our students thoroughly enjoy working outdoors and find working in the grounds of Heronsbridge really stimulating and rewarding. Lots of students are working on the Winnie the Pooh garden with Anthea and are benefiting immensely from the experience."

Bridgend County Borough Council cabinet member for children, Coun Huw David said: "These two schools deserve to be highly commended for the imaginative way that they are engaging young people in learning by introducing them to gardening and the environment.

"To be involved in such an illustrious show is a wonderful honour for both schools. I wish them every success."

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Bridgend wins Rotary Clubs' quiz competition

THE quarter finals of the Rotary Inter District quiz competition was held at the Heronston Hotel on May 5 between Bridgend and Carmarthen Rotarians.

There were 10 rounds starting with questions on art. The first round went unanswered and was thrown open to the audience from which Rotarian Brian Roberts won by answering a question the teams failed to answer. This was of course a warm-up question and things got better from then on!

The first round was won by Bridgend 4-2 against Carmarthen.

The subsequent rounds were on sport, general knowledge, science, literature, deaths, geography and pot-luck and at the end of the night, Bridgend had won most rounds, taking the quarter finals with a score of 38 to Carmarthern's 22 points.

This resulted in Bridgend Rotary Club progressing to the next stage against Milford Haven, at a venue to be decided. The president of Bridgend Rotary thanked Carmarthen club for coming to Bridgend to compete in this round and commiserated with them on a hard-fought contest and for being valiant losers.

Wishing them every success in future, she went on to thank the adjudicators selected from each club for keeping accurate scores and quiz master Gareth Rees for doing a fine job in ensuring the competition went smoothly.

All participants and an audience of over 40 Rotarians had a very enjoyable evening.

Should anyone like to sponsor the next round of this competition for Bridgend Rotary Club, or would like to enquire about joining us, please contact me at the address/telephone numbers below:

Major (Retd) Wayne B Morgan MBE, 7 Parcau Road, Bridgend CF31 4TA, telephone 01656 714602, mobile 07789 713430.

Who wants to build what and where?

*Asda Stores Ltd – **Ffald Road Shopping Centre, Pyle** – Signage for new Asda store.*

*Mr Jeff Williams – **Bayleaves, Marlpit Lane, Porthcawl** – T1 Macrocarpa, remove dead wood and any broken or damaged limbs.*

*Mr Glyn Jenkins – **Ty Draw Farm, South Cornelly** – Fell and remove five Ash, one Beech and one Sycamore tree.*

*Mrs Nicola Fortune – **63 Hazel Mead, Brynmenyn** – T1 Oak, reduce weight on load bearing limbs and sever ivy.*

*Mrs Avril Williams – **12 School Terrace, North Cornelly** – Single storey rear extension.*

*Ms Ros Morgan – **37 High Street, Laleston** – Certificate of lawfulness for a proposed single storey rear extension.*

*Mr Peter Bader – **6 St Davids Way, Porthcawl** – Ground floor rear and side extensions.*

*Dr Noel Thomas – **Bron y Garn Surgery, Station Street, Maesteg** – Change of use from doctors' surgery to self-contained unit and revert reception room into residential for Bron y Garn.*

*Dwr Cymru Welsh Water – **Land at Cefn Road, Cefn Cribwr** – Residential development (14 units) and associated works.*

*Melissa Allen – **Booking Office, Royal British Legion, Brynglas Terrace, Pyle** – Change of use from taxi office to outside catering snack bar takeaway.*

*Mr Kenneth Squires – **Land off Fowlers Place, Caerau, Maesteg** – One bungalow.*

*Mr G J Williams – **10 Minffrwd Close, Pencoed** – Single storey extension to rear and single storey in-fill extentions to front elevation including new roof.*

*Natural Resource Wales Permitting Centre (Cardiff) – **Land off Tyla Lane, Merthyr Mawr** – Consultation on environmental permit application (Coastal Oil and Gas Limited).*

*Mr D Bethel – **5 Penylan, Litchard** – Amend the hipped roof to a pitched with front and rear dormers and sun room to rear.*

*Mr P Thomas – **Penylan House, Ton Kenfig, Maudlam, Bridgend** – Single storey extension.*

*Mr M Khaliq – **Sea View Farm, Pyle Road, Porthcawl** – Amendment to /14/148/FUL including install DNO, SMA and customer substations, CCTV, site track, module layout, fencing and compound area.*

*Mrs Julie Hayes – **7 Heol Neuadd Domos, Cwmfelin** – Single storey rear extension and internal alterations.*

*Mrs Patricia Sutton – **5 Highland Place, Bridgend** – Single storey extension and internal structural alterations and detached garage.*

*Mr Thomas – **Newton Villas, 274 New Road, Porthcawl** – Extension to second floor.*

*UK Power Reserve Ltd – **Land north west side of Coity Road, Bridgend** – A small scale standby electricity generation plant in individual soundproof containers.*

*Miss Carol Phillips – **14 Neville Road, Bridgend** – Rear single storey kitchen/breakfast room extension.*

*Mr A and Mrs L Cross – **16 Woodlands Rise, Bryntirion** – Extension to rear and side to provide additional living accommodation.*

*Mr A Sperduty – **Marjas, 10 Stormy Lane, Stormy Down** – First floor side extension and extend existing single storey extension to create a larger hallway.*

AGM, cakes and chatter!

THE Newton WI's May meeting was the AGM and Resolutions Night, and members were pleased to have in attendance WI advisor, Mrs Ann Davies, who was most helpful and informative and very entertaining.

This year's resolution is '*Failing to care – Assessment of Need in Long Term Care*'. All business finished, tea cakes and chatter followed!

In April, we were privileged to attend a lunch and fashion show at Norton House Hotel in Mumbles, which was part of the WI centenary celebrations.

What a wonderful display of outfits was provided by Solo and Goose Island of Mumbles. A most enjoyable day was had by all, with lots of ideas for our summer wardrobe.

There is much more to look forward to in the coming months. If you would like more information, phone Pearl on 01656 772657. **MF**

THE M4 BUS CRASH PENSIONERS MEET THEIR 'ANGEL OF MERCY'

Sue with 80-year-old Gladys Quirin.

Sue with Morwena Pearce.

Sue (centre front) is pictured with Maesteg mayor Phil Jenkins, mayoress Linda Jenkins and the pensioners during their reunion event.

PENSIONERS injured in a bus crash on the M4 have had an emotional reunion with the off-duty health worker who tended to them at the scene, Sue Salvatore-Davies, when they met her for the first time since January's traumatic events.

Sue was travelling from her Porthcawl home to the Midlands to visit her dad, when she saw the pile-up on the M4 near Cardiff.

The senior healthcare support worker at Morriston Hospital's Ty Olwen hospice, who also works in Singleton Hospital, immediately pulled over to see what she could do to help.

After seeing to an injured woman in a car, Sue looked after those on the bus until the emergency services arrived – and afterwards, remaining there for more than three hours.

The accident involved four cars and a small coach taking a group of Maesteg pensioners to see a show in Cardiff.

Although it led to 28 people being taken to four different hospitals – almost half of them going to Princess of Wales Hospital in Bridgend – there were no life-threatening injuries.

The pensioners, many of them still not yet fully recovered, were reunited with Sue during a tea party in Maesteg.

It was held in Our Lady and St Patrick's Catholic Church and hosted by town mayor Phil Jenkins on behalf of the Catholic community.

One of the pensioners, 80-year-old Gladys Quirin, suffered head and other injuries, and recalls being in and out of consciousness after the crash.

"Sue was there, talking to me. She was beautiful. I cannot thank her enough for helping me. She kept talking to me. I felt comforted, having her there."

Husband and wife Stan and Morwena Pearce were also on the bus. Stan, aged 77, recalled how he panicked when he couldn't find his wife, before seeing Sue with her, putting a pillow under her head.

Meanwhile, 75-year-old Morwena's memory immediately after the accident was of Sue holding her hand, telling her not to move.

Morwena, who is still receiving treatment for a fractured spine, said: "Sue was wonderful, taking care of us all. She put a blanket over me to make sure I was warm, because I was on the floor.

"She kept coming back to see if I was okay. She was just wonderful to everybody on the bus."

Morwena also paid tribute to the paramedics and emergency crews as well as hospital staff.

Sue didn't leave until the last passenger was safely taken from the coach – more than three hours later. After that she continued on to Coventry.

Sue was a district healthcare support worker with Marie Curie for 17 years. She has been with the hospital palliative care team, based in Ty Olwen, for the last three and a half years.

She said the reunion had been very moving.

"It was really nice, seeing everybody again. There was this instant warmth between us because I'd been with them at the most traumatic time in their lives – it was a privilege to be able to help them.

"They hadn't forgotten me and I hadn't forgotten them. I've been keeping in touch to make sure they were okay and it was so lovely to see them."

Mayor Jenkins said he had not known who Sue was until she responded to an open letter he wrote thanking the lady who spent hours at the scene.

"I decided that as mayor of Maesteg it would be nice to get in touch with all those involved and from that we arranged this event.

"Everybody seemed to enjoy themselves. Hopefully, it wasn't too much of a traumatic experience, reliving some of the nastier moments.

"Thankfully, they are all here with us and starting to recover. I'm grateful for that but I'm also very grateful to Sue for the amount of time she spent with them and her compassion and professionalism."

Recycling efforts helping to cut carbon footprint

THANKS to the outstanding efforts of residents, recycling services in Bridgend County Borough (BCBC) have once again been ranked among the best in the UK for 'carbon benefits'.

With 57 per cent of local waste being recycled each week, less carbon emissions are being produced here than most other areas of the country, and residents are being urged to keep up the good work!

Waste consultancy Eunomia's annual report into the environmental performance of local authorities has found that the recycling service provided by BCBC and its waste partner Kier Services led to a saving of 93 kilograms of carbon per person in 2013/14.

The result puts BCBC in the top ten per cent in the UK, and is another example of how recycling helps the planet.

Recycling reduces each household's carbon footprint in many ways. For example, harmful methane gas is produced by materials on landfill sites, so cutting down on the amount of waste sent to landfill helps to reduce the greenhouse gases that escape into the atmosphere.

Another benefit from recycling is the fact that making products out of recycled items uses much less energy than is required to make products from raw materials.

Coun Phil White, BCBC cabinet member for communities, said: "We all know that if we recycle then we can make sure that materials are put to good use instead of them just going into landfill. But it's also interesting to hear that less landfill means less pollution. By recycling as much as possible we can make a real impact on our environment and I would like to say a huge thanks to local residents for being so committed to recycling.

"However, we can still do more and aim for an even higher recycling rate, so I would urge any households who aren't currently recycling with our weekly collections to get involved. It's easy to start recycling, and these figures demonstrate just how much of a positive impact can be made by residents recycling as much as possible."

If you live in Bridgend County Borough and you aren't recycling yet, please call the council on 01656 643643 or visit www.bridgend.gov.uk to find out more.

PENCOED PUPILS QUIZ OGMORE MP

Mr Huw Irranca-Davies pictured with Mr David George, headteacher and representatives from the sixth form.

OGMORE MP Huw Irranca-Davies visited Pencoed Comprehensive School recently, to meet representatives of the School Council and sixth form prefect team.

He spent a significant amount of time answering questions from pupils, ranging from topical issues such as the living wage and university tuition fees, to imparting information on his role in Parliament.

Pupils were interested to hear how Mr Irranca-Davies entered the world of politics and the diverse roles he has undertaken.

After the question and answer session, members of the sixth form led a tour of the school, where he met many pupils and staff. All pupils involved found the visit very informative and inspiring, particularly those who are planning to pursue careers in law and politics. They wish to thank Mr Irranca-Davies for taking time from his busy schedule. **LH**

Organ donation opt out to come into law

BRIDGEND County Borough Council (BCBC) is supporting the Welsh Government's campaign to raise awareness of new organ donation choices which come into effect later this year.

On December 1, 2015, Wales will become the first UK country to introduce a 'soft opt out' legislation on organ donation. From that date onwards, everyone aged over 18 in Wales will have the option of opting in or out of organ donation, and if you have not registered a decision then you will be treated as having no objection to being an organ donor.

BCBC, along with Wales' largest building society, Principality, are two of the first organisations to sign up in support of the 'Time to Talk' public communications campaign and will be working with the Welsh Government to provide information to their employees about the impending changes to the law.

Coun Mel Nott, the Leader of BCBC, said: "The new system will help to make everyone's organ donation decision clearer and families will know that their loved one could have opted out if they didn't want to be a donor.

"There is no need for anyone to take any action right now as the current opt-in system of organ donation remains in place until December 1. But it is vital to start talking to your family and friends about your decision, and we are pleased to help rase awareness of this important matter."

"Everyone in Wales will receive information before the new system comes into force. As with the current system, people will be able to register a decision to donate all organs and tissues or to select specific organs or tissues."

More information can be found at www.organdonationwales.org.

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VE DAY IS COMMEMORATED WITH AN EVENT HELD AT PORTHCAWL MUSEUM

PHOTOGRAPHS by DAVID SWIDENBANK

Ceri Joseph of Porthcawl Museum organised the community singing.

PORTHCAWL Museum put on a special event to celebrate the 70th anniversary of VE Day.

A coffee morning, organised by social secretary Chris Swidenbank, attracted a number of locals in period costume, and the cakes and snacks were designed to reflect a wartime menu.

Delicacies on offer included carrot sticks and vinegar cake, all prepared by Chris, the Porthcawl Lions, and the Porthcawl Townswomen's Guild.

There was an excellent turnout and the crowd made their own entertainment, joining in community singing led by Ceri Joseph.

There was also a VE Day quiz, a raffle, and the chance to remember times when austerity was the norm, rather than a political slogan.

John Wayne rides again at Mayor's Ball!

The charity committee.

THE Mayor of Maesteg's Charity Ball, which this year had a Hollywood theme complete with full size cut-outs of John Wayne, Brad and Angelina, Humphrey Bogart and a 6ft 'Oscar', took place in the magnificent setting of Maesteg Town Hall on Saturday, May 2.

After treading a 'red carpet', the many guests were hosted by the Mayor, Coun Philip Jenkins and the Mayoress, Mrs Linda Jenkins, to a welcome drink and a delicious four-course dinner provided by Brownings Caterers.

The hall was beautifully decorated in suitably exotic style, with giant red ostrich feathers, flowers and candles, and the guests, including Ogmore MP Huw Irranca-Davies and his wife Joanna, the Mayor and Mayoress of Bridgend county borough, and representatives from Porthcawl, Llangynwyd and Brackla councils, were royally entertained by the resounding sound of Bridgend Big Band playing music from the movies.

The raffle prizes were donated by friends and businesses in the town, including a generous donation of a television from Tesco Stores, and a substantial sum was raised for the Mayor's charity.

The Mayor expressed thanks to his charity committee and to all those who helped raise funds for his chosen charities during his mayoral year. He also said that he and his wife were passionate about the cause 'Alzheimer's care in the Community,' as his family had been touched by this disease.

Chair of the charity committee, Mr Michael Banks, revealed that the target of £5,000 had been reached and surpassed, and that the two beneficiaries, Hyffrydol Care Home and Wards 15 and 21 at Bridgend Hospital, would soon be receiving a donation from the mayor's fund.

LYNNE WILLIAMS

John Wayne and Phil John.

The Mayor and Mayoress.

Pencoed pupils link up with university on DNA

FURTHERING Pencoed Comprehensive School links with the department of biomedical sciences at Cardiff University, the school's biology department borrowed state of the art equipment that enabled year-13 to gain 'hands on' experience of apparatus not available in school.

This allowed them to use equipment for carrying out the Polymerase Chain Reaction (PCR) which is used to amplify samples of DNA, and electrophoresis equipment which is used to separate samples.

This was made possible by the university's school liason, Dr Karen Reed, a past pupil. This was highly beneficial for the students, as they could carry out techniques they would have only learned in theory.

Year-12 biology students have also visited the department of biosciences at Cardiff University.

This gave them an insight into university science courses and the facilities available to them, should they choose this pathway in further education.

The students attended workshops involving DNA replication and protein synthesis. They were also given a tour of the department and were told about the work carried out by Dr Reed, involving research into colon cancer.

This was an excellent opportunity for students to gain experience of working and using the facilities in the university laboratories. This experience has influenced the career choices for many of my students in the past.

LH

Path through Parkinson's

PEOPLE who have experienced Parkinson's first hand will show others with the condition how to take control of their lives.

ABMU and Parkinson's UK Cymru are behind a self-management programme being held across Bridgend, Swansea, Neath Port Talbot this summer.

The health board awarded a £16,700 grant to Parkinson's UK Cymru to develop two programmes. The first, 'Active with Parkinson's' is a referral-only exercise programme specifically tailored for people affected by the condition.

It has already started and is now being followed by 'A Path through Parkinson's', a self-management programme which begins next month.

Sessions for the Bridgend area will take place in the Care and Repair offices, starting on Tuesday, June 2.

Each session runs from 1pm-3.30pm. Although people do not need to be referred, they do need to book a place in advance.

To book a place, email: selfmanagement@parkinsons.org.uk or call 020 7963 3924. Information is also available at: www.parkinsons.org.uk/selfmanagement.

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Jack's dream has come true as he rides on specially adapted trike *at last*

Jack is thrilled with his speciallyadapted trike which will givehim a new sense of freedom.

ONE of the most exciting moments for any young child comes when they get their first trike – but for one Llantwit Major youngster with serious mobility problems, it has meant so much more.

by GEM REPORTER

Jack Vincent, aged three, has a form of 'dystonic cerebral palsy', resulting in multiple disabilities, including severe mobility problems. He needed a very expensive, adapted trike.

Naturally, mum Debra and dad Mark, were anxious that Jack shouldn't miss out – and thanks to the generosity of fundraisers at the Old White Hart and caring local people, Jack's wish has been fulfilled.

Elenid Carlig of the Old White Hart, which has held regular raffles, said: "Everyone has been truly amazing in their response to Jack. People's generosity has been overwhelming and humbling.

"Thanks for raffle prizes go to Cardiff Aviation Training Ltd, Horizon Aircraft, and Ruth Jones of Tidy Productions. Dafydd Hewitt has donated a signed Blues' shirt which will be raffled on May 28.

"Through our weekly Thursday quiz we managed to raise an amazing £400.

"Alan Young donated a classic rocking horse which raised an additional £100, which will go towards a special chair for Jack.

"There were other sizeable donations – £500 from Sue Evans of the Ed Evans Foundation; £500 from Liz and Byron Evans of the Llantwit Major and Cowbridge Lions; £500 from local resident Graham Richards, and £100 from an anonymous gentleman who popped into the pub.

"We also want to thank The GEM for publicising the story."

Debra and Mark said: "We have been overwhelmed by everyone's kindness and extremely generous donations. It's incredible.We can't thank everyone enough.

"We have enough left over to also buy Jack specialist seating called the P-Pod. This will enable him to feel more comfortable when not in his therapy chair, and will enable him to interact more with us as a family."

Local girl singers in the frame for Sondheim prize

TWO local singers will be taking part in an important national musical competition when they join 10 other musical students in this year's Stephen Sondheim Society Student Performer of the Year (SSSSPOTY), on Sunday, May 17, at the Garrick Theatre in London's West End.

The two local hopefuls are Amy Bridges of Bridgend, aged 21, a student at the Musical Theatre Academy, and Charlotte Vaughan of Porthcawl, aged 22, who is studying at the Royal Academy of Music.

Each student will sing a song by Stephen Sondheim and, at his personal request, they will also each sing a new musical theatre song, written by members of Mercury Musical Developments and shortlisted for the Stiles and Drewe 'Best New Song' prize.

Amy's new song will be 'Look At Me' by Eamonn O'Dwyer, while her Sondheim song is 'More' from the soundtrack of the film, *Dick Tracy,* sung my Madonna in the movie.

Charlotte's new song is 'You're Better Off Loving Yourself' by Danny Davies and her Sondheim song is 'The Miller's Son' from *A Little Night Music*.

As always, the competition is in two parts: the initial heat was held on Sunday, March 15, at the Royal Academy of Music, in private.

The final will be in front of a panel of judges from the industry, and an audience of industry professionals and the public.

The renowned Sondheim interpreter and patron of the Stephen Sondheim Society, Julia McKenzie, will be presenting the award, alongside judges including Elaine Paige, Laura Pitt-Pulford, director Jamie Lloyd, conductor and BBC Proms favourite John Wilson, and writer and broadcaster Edward Seckerson.

Amy Bridges of Bridgend.

Charlotte Vaughan of Porthcawl.

Porthcawl Lions hold successful May Fayre

ABOVE:
The Porthcawl Ukelele Band entertained at the Lions' Fayre.

Photographs by John Cosson.

ABOVE: Taking the strain in the tug of war competition.

PORTHCAWL Lions are delighted to report that this year's May Fayre was a great success, with many residents and visitors coming to enjoy the many attractions on offer, two of the most popular being the ukulele band and the exotic animals.

The choice of refreshments also went down well and the club would like to thank All Saints Church for the use of the buildings and grounds, and also the organisations who had stalls.

Most of all, thank you to all who came and supported the day. Your generosity at this and other Lions' events, allows Porthcawl Lions to donate to many charities, mostly local.

JOHN COSSON

ABOVE: Refreshments were available in the church hall.

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PARENTS RALLY TO CHILDREN'S HOSPICE WEEK APPEAL...

Ty Hafan message is: *'Make every moment count'*

PARENTS Hannah and Ian Hicks experienced mixed emotions when they found out they were expecting their second child.

Although excited by the news, they were also terrified that their unborn baby would have the same life-limiting condition as their daughter, Alice.

It was during their 20-week scan that the couple found out that little Alice had hydranencephaly. The condition means that her brain isn't fully formed and she is sadly expected to die in childhood.

Thankfully, scans revealed that their second child was healthy but it was still a stressful nine months for the Cardiff couple as they waited for their daughter, Sophia, to be born.

"I had scans every four weeks, to make sure everything was okay," said Hannah. "Even though we were told that there was a one in a million chance that Sophia would have the same condition, we still couldn't fully relax until she was born. It was such a relief when we found out she was fine."

Alice was referred to Tŷ Hafan, the hospice for children in Wales at Sully when she was a few weeks old, after she spent her first 15 days fighting for her life at the neo-natal unit at the University Hospital of Wales.

"As it became increasingly clear the doctors could do nothing more to help her, they suggested we took her for end-of-life care at Tŷ Hafan," said Ian. "Being told by our doctors that we would have to go to Tŷ Hafan felt like the end, but it turned out to be a new beginning."

Alice pulled through those early weeks and, at 20 months old, is now doing incredibly well, with specialists even discussing the possibility of her going to school in the future. Hannah said: "She is almost two and is doing so much better than anyone ever predicted. She is verbalising and tries to say mamma. It's so nice to see her improving."

The new family addition has completed the family. Hannah said: "Having two girls under two is wonderful but it can be hard work at times! They already have an amazing bond and we adore both of them."

Tŷ Hafan's support doesn't stop for the family, who recently visited the hospice for short-break care. "There are so many ways Tŷ Hafan continues to be there for our family," said Ian, "from the visits and phone calls from our family support practitioner, Hayley, to the short breaks we have at the hospice.

"They help make sure every moment we have with Alice is spent creating memories that will last forever. We know that when the time comes, and Alice reaches the end of her life, they will support us through that, too."

The family is again supporting the charity's summer Precious Moments appeal, being launched in Children's Hospice Week (May 11-17) to raise vital funds for Tŷ Hafan.

Jenna Lewis, Tŷ Hafan's Head of Individual Giving, said: "Making Every Moment Count' is the theme for this year's Children's Hospice Week. Our Precious Moments appeal highlights the importance of creating memories and the crucial role that Tŷ Hafan plays in helping families make the most of the time they have left together.

"We hope the public supports our appeal so we can help more families like Alice's in need of our support."

• *If you would like to make a donation to Tŷ Hafan's Precious Moments appeal, please visit www.tyhafan.org/precious/.*

Charity holds solidarity day

HOMELESSNESS charity, Emmaus South Wales will be holding a solidarity day on May 16, to raise funds for humanitarian relief projects overseas.

It will be one of over 20 communities across the UK holding a solidarity day, sending the full day's takings from its shops overseas to support people living in Emmaus communities in other countries.

The money will be used to fund training, agricultural assistance and water programmes for people supported by Emmaus in poorer parts of the world.

The concept of solidarity is central to the Emmaus ethos and the motivation behind its annual solidarity days. Shoppers can play their part by visiting their local Emmaus shops to buy secondhand furniture, vintage items, bric-a-brac and clothes.

Commenting on the upcoming solidarity day, Tom Clarke, Director of Emmaus South Wales said: "We are delighted to share our retail success with other Emmaus groups overseas who are less fortunate than we are in the UK.

"While life is not easy for everyone in the UK, watching the international news shows how difficult life can be for millions of people."

Join Emmaus South Wales at its shops in Bridgend, Cowbridge, Maesteg, Porthcawl and Neath on May 16. **JF**

Young Farmers open to public!

THE Glamorgan Federation of Young Farmers Clubs invites the local public to a free event – its annual Rally Day on June 13.

YFC members from the seven clubs across Glamorgan go head-to-head in various competitions at a new venue, Slade Farm Organics, St Brides Major.

Showcasing the skills and talents of members aged between 10 and 26, the day sees over 20 competitions and entertainment take place – from cookery and crafts to woodwork and tractor handling.

Glamorgan YFC Rally committee chairperson, Natalie Lewis, said: "As a voluntary organisation, YFC is dependent on the support and generosity of local businesses and individuals to help hold and run events and competitions throughout the year.

"Without this vital lifeline, the opportunities and life skills that members relish would not be possible. If you are interested in getting involved, or would like to sponsor the event, please get in touch to discuss the opportunities available."

To find out more about the Glamorgan Federation of Young Farmers' Clubs, contact county organiser Gwyneth Thomas on 07779 331839, email Glamorgan@yfc-wales.org.uk or visit www.glamorganyfc.co.uk

Card scheme protects the elderly and vulnerable

Vale of Glamorgan and Bridgend community safety partnership teams visited Real Lives Community Group in Barry recently, to promote the Keep Safe Cymru card.

Police Sergeant Angela Bennett said "The potentially life-saving cards enable vulnerable people to get help when they become ill or feel unsafe. The 'Keep Safe' cards were originally designed for people with learning disabilities, but can be used more widely used. "Sometimes people find themselves in situations where they need help but can't communicate, or have needs that are not instantly visible. The free Keep Safe cards assist with that communication. We are ensuring that all police officers and staff are aware of the card and to ask people if they have one."

Judith Major from South Wales Police Public Service Centre (PSC), said: "The Keep Safe Cymru card is part of our commitment to supporting people who could potentially be vulnerable when they are out and about.

"The card contains important personal and medical information that could ensure vulnerable people get the help they need, when they need it.

"It's a useful card to keep in a purse or wallet, so we would encourage people to consider whether they, or someone they know, would benefit from having one."

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Dogs Trust says: 'MAY THE PAWS BE WITH YOU!' as Max finds new home!

Max has found a home.

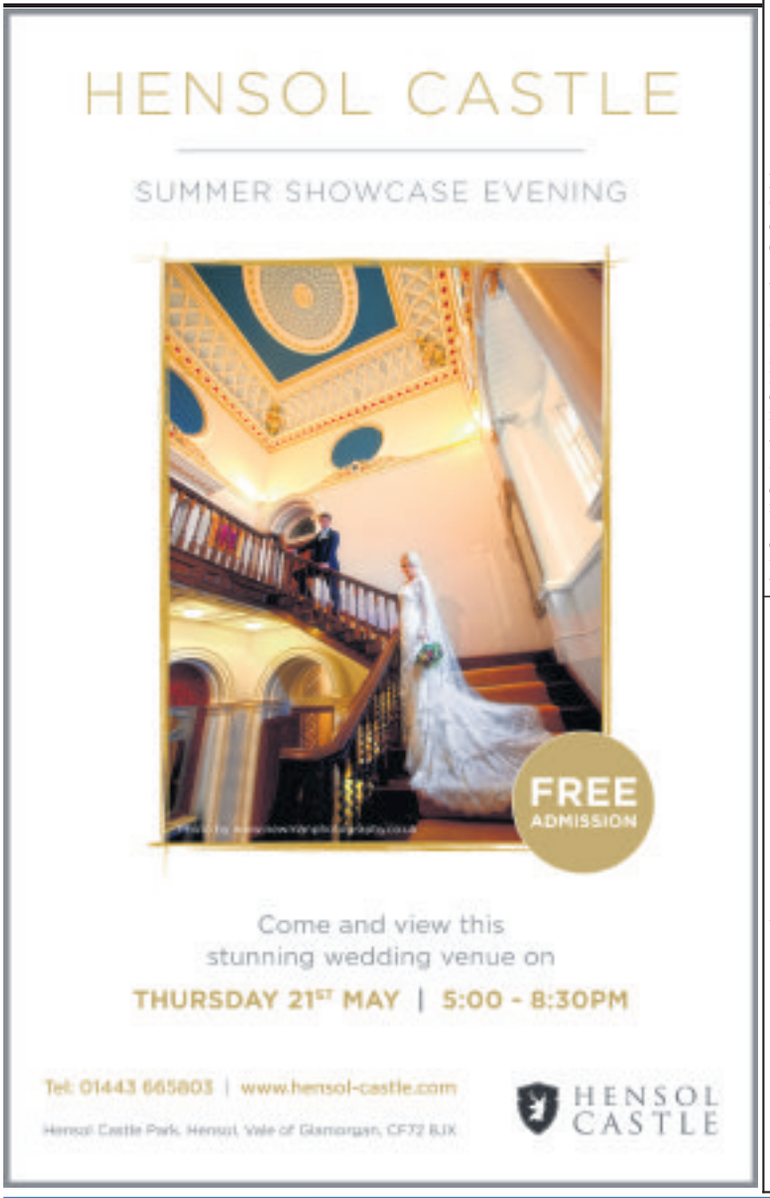
STAFF at Dogs Trust Bridgend are delighted that after searching the galaxies and hoping *'The paws will be with you'*, a home has been found for a dog who bears a striking resemblance to everybody's favourite Star Wars characters, Ewoks.

Max first came to the Rehoming Centre on May 1, 2009 and after six years of searching he finally found a loving new home on May 4.

Staff hoped that Max's stark resemblance to the famous Star Wars characters would help potential adopters put their 'Hans' up for Max to ensure he wouldn't remain 'Solo'.

Dogs Trust Bridgend, Supporter Relations Officer Linda Feagan explained: "Just like his adorable *doppelgangers*, Max is a loyal boy who deserves to find his forever home. It's so fitting that after six years of searching it seems the force is with strong with him and he found a new home on May 4."

If you are interested in rehoming a dog, call the Bridgend Rehoming Centre on 0300 303 0292; open every day between 12pm-4pm apart from Wednesdays. Dogs Trust Rehoming Centre Bridgend, is at Court Colman, Pen-y-Fai, Bridgend, Mid Glamorgan, CF31 4NG.



Wood trades students Lewis Cooksley, Lewis Leong, Mathew Manthe, Gareth Davies and Luke Williams in front of CAVC's new city centre campus, where they had work placements.

College students help build their new city centre campus

MORE than 200 Cardiff and Vale College students have helped in the construction of the college's new £45m city centre campus in Cardiff.

Working with site developers Willmott Dixon, the students have had work placements at the 16,000m² landmark campus, due to open in September.

Jordan Phillips, a carpentry student from Cardiff, said: "It was really good, especially to be out learning in the 'real world'. Learning in the classroom is great, but you pick things up much more quickly in a real work environment and you get to be hand's on."

Fellow carpentry student Helen Kane spent her work placement job shadowing and helping to fix cladding from scaffolding on the top floor in the new campus' atrium.

"My fear of the unknown on a large site was conquered, particularly as the team I worked with were friendly and all the other trades worked together. It is easy to think you may do something you have learned in college wrong on site, but my week showed me how organised the work is and how enjoyable the challenges are."

St John Day

BRIDGEND town centre will be the venue for a St John Cymru Wales collection and demonstration day, today (May 16) from 10am.

Contact pencoedbridgendenquiries@stjohncymruwales.onmicrosoft.com.

The event will include information about St John, the chance to visit an ambulance, and first aid demonstrations; also to obtain information on training courses.

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Shopkeeper is sentenced for trading in 'legal highs'

A BRIDGEND shopkeeper has been fined, after pleading guilty to supplying so-called 'legal highs'.

In a case brought by Bridgend County Borough Council's Trading Standards recently, Cardiff Crown Court heard how a range of new psychoactive products with names such as 'Go Gaine' 'Exodus' and 'Rush' were being sold from Atif Iqbal's 'Izzit' shop on Nolton Street.

The Trading Standards investigation, which was supported by South Wales Police, began after a number of complaints were received about 'legal highs' being available at the store, and concerns were raised about the effect such products were having on those consuming them.

Following an undercover test purchase of one of the products, Mr Iqbal's entire stock of the substances was seized and samples submitted for analysis.

While confusing labelling described the products as being 'research chemicals', 'room deodorisers' and 'not for human consumption', the member of staff serving the officer gave clear guidance as to the manner in which they were intended to be taken.

Mr Iqbal was sentenced on Monday, April 27, after he had entered guilty pleas at an earlier hearing. He was fined a total of £3,960 for six offences under the General Product Safety Regulations and ordered to pay £4,000 in costs, together with a victim surcharge of £120.

Passing sentence, his Honour Judge Bidder QC commented on how the packaging and marketing of the products gave the impression that the user would get some sort of 'high' from using them, yet Mr Iqbal was clearly a man who believed that the law didn't apply to him.

Welcoming the outcome of the prosecution case, Leader of Bridgend County Borough Council, Coun Mel Nott OBE, said: "The supply of new psychoactive substances is a matter of huge concern in our communities and I'm delighted that the hard work of Trading Standards in partnership with South Wales Police, has secured this result.

"The marketing of these products as 'Legal Highs' is designed to evade current consumer protection and drugs law, but the simple truth is, that a purchaser can't be sure what they are taking and could be playing 'Russian roulette' with their health, if not their life."

Inspector Richard Weber said: "Parents need to be on their guard and we would appeal to anyone who knows where young people are buying these highs to get in touch with us, or to pass information (free and anonymously) via Crimestoppers.

"While, as the name states, these drugs are legal, they can induce all manner of health issues of similar effects to the real thing. Those taking legal highs have been known to suffer from breathing difficulties, heart palpitations, hallucinations, seizures and comas.

"They can come in powder form, pills and herbal materials, and they do look similar to the controlled drugs that they imitate. These drugs can be very dangerous as it is not possible to predict the side effects, or the long term health risks which can result from their use."

Inspector Weber added: "My Bridgend officers and PCSOs have spent a lot of time policing the problems caused by 'legal high' abuse, and have worked hard to compile the evidence needed to justify this result."

Anyone with concerns about the supply of 'legal highs' locally should contact Trading Standards on 01656 642643; by email via trading.standards@bridgend.gov.uk or call South Wales Police on 101.

LABOUR HOLD ON TO SEATS

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1)

The UKIP campaign had a number of former Tories in their ranks, and they were pleased when Caroline Jones came third, with almost 6,000 votes.

Spokesman Chris Smart said: "Our share of the vote showed there was great interest in UKIP. I don't think this was just a case of getting Lib-Dem votes – although their vote did collapse. We found people coming over to us from both Labour and the Conservatives."

There were 10 candidates in Bridgend, and only the first four home retained their deposits. In Ogmore, where seven candidates stood, it was again only the first four who hung on to their £500.

• *For full details of the votes cast in The GEM's circulation area, together with an analysis of the trends, see page 16.*

SOUTH WALES DOG AND FAMILY FUN DAY A GREAT DAY OUT!

The South Wales Dog and Family Fun Day at Fonmon Castle on Bank Holiday Monday, May 25, is a must in the calendar for anyone who owns a dog, has children or who would just like a great day out!

A spokewoman explained: "We really do have something for everyone. The event is now in its fourth year and is growing in size and what is on offer.

"This year there is the addition of an Artisan Food Court and Bar which should prove a welcome addition to those attending the event!

"This year we have an amazing range of attractions and displays including Richard Curtis with his amazing K9 Quackers and K9 freestyle dancing dog displays; Paws For Thought dog display team; Marney Wells with Garbo; Larki Gundogs' Viking Combat and Living History; Malpeet K9 Academy, Medical Detection Dogs and Deaf Dog Network.

"We also welcome back our regular stall holders and also our new vendors. Visitors can enjoy a leisurely day browsing the independent designers, small businesses and craftspeople stands – both local and from across the UK.

"There are all the favourite dog-related stalls selling dog foods, beds, treats, coats, bandanas, leads and collars, to those selling jewellery, paintings and gorgeous gifts, and bespoke art and craft items that you can seldom buy in the shops!

"We have a huge fun dog show, a Scruffts heat, Wales' Woof Factor, Gundog Scurry competition, various doggy have-a-go's and free microchipping provided by Dogs Trust.

"For children we have a funfair, combat zone, go-carts, donkey rides, children petting farm, mascots and even a free play area.

"We have various trade and charity stalls, Bro Radio with a live broadcast, falconry, ferrets and various snakes and reptiles."

Entry is just £10/car! Our website is www.fonmoncharitydogsshow.com

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Out and About with The GEM

YOUR GUIDE TO WHAT'S ON AND WHERE IN YOUR AREA...

Valeways walks

ON Tuesday, May 19 at 10am, 'Bluebells', starting at the car park opposite the Fox and Hounds, St Brides Major.

From May 21-24, the Vale of Glamorgan Walking Festival takes place; see *www.valeofglamorganwalkingfestival.org.uk*.

On Wednesday, May 20 at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet at Romilly Cafe, Cold Knap, Barry.

On Wednesday, May 27 at 10.30am, the coffee shop strollers meet outside the visitor centre at Cosmeston Country Park.

On Thursday, May 28 at 10am, 'West!', starting at the Sycamore Tree, Colwinston, CF71 7NG.

Breastfriends' meeting

BARRY Breastfriends (Cardiff and Vale Breast Cancer Suport Group) will be meeting on Friday (May 15) at 2pm in the Masonic hall, Broad Street.

The speaker this month is Alison Wyatt, from Velindre Hospital, who will be talking about the importance of physical activity following treatment, and also how the use of acupuncture is being trialled to alleviate some of the side effects of medication.

For more details of the meeting, or information about the group, telephone Pam on 07919 035658.

SAS man at Vale Church

THIS Sunday (May 17) Vale Church is hosting a special event at Costa Coffee, Cowbridge at 5pm as part of the monthly programme of Cafe Church, with a guest speaker who has over 20 years' military service, 17 spent with the SAS.

Mark Davies has a broad experience of all types of military operation; conventional war, covert, counter terrorism and VIP protection. He also advises governments and NGOs on security issues. Mark will share how he maintains his faith in this challenging industry. This promises to be a very interesting evening.

Everyone is welcome to this event and we know many people expressed an interest at our May Fair stall. So it may be wise to be a little early to get a seat and a coffee! Our cafe evenings are very informal and it is a chance to get to know Vale Church and hear inspiring life stories without the religious trappings.

Contact Neil on 07870 168154. **AG**

Coffee morning

THE Mayor of Barry, Coun Emma Pritchard, will be hosting a coffee morning on Monday, May 18, to be held at Ty Hapus, 163 Holton Road, Barry (CF63 4HP) at 10am to 12pm in aid of charities the mayor has chosen to support during her term of office.

These are Ty Hapus and MND (Motor Neurone Disease) Cardiff and Vale of Glamorgan.

For more information contact 01446 704921, or email juliehurd@barrytowncouncil.gov.uk.

Group for older dancers perform

Maesteg events

ON May 27, 11am – 3.30pm there will be a film, dance and buffet at Maesteg Town Hall and market square.

From Wednesday, May 27 – Friday, May 29 Llynfi Valley Dramatic Society presents: *Rosemary Calling* by Tracey Lewis, *Snowbound* by Paul Skye and *Last Panto in the Llynfi Valley* by David Tristram; curtain up at 7.30pm.

On May 30 (7pm) *A Proud Celebration of Llynfi Valley Choral Music* features Cor Meibion a'r Cylch; Harmony; Take Note, at Maesteg Town Hall.

Local author's slice of life

***BARA/BREAD*, by local playwright Carmen Medway-Stephens, will be staged at Carnegie House, Wyndham Street, Bridgend on May 26 (7.30pm).**

Set in the small fictitious village of Lovenny, *Bara/Bread* is a story about a village that is dying, thanks to the rise of the materialistic society – the superstore and the bypass that circumnavigates it.

The all-female cast has an age range from 18 – 70 years, and their binding interest is baking: one woman starts the 'bread club'. Through their search for the 'mother dough', the audience will be taken on a journey of discovery.

For tickets, contact www.ticketsource.co.uk/carnegiehouse or Carnegie House team on 01656 815757 (9am – 1pm).

High Street artisan market – and also a spring fayre

THIS Saturday, May 16, shoppers and bargain hunters have a great double opportunity.

High Street shopping area is holding an artisan market with stalls selling real ales, artisan cheeses, garden plants and hand crafted gifts all accompanied with music from The Bucket Band.

Among the stalls will be Little Welsh Cottage, Teifi Cheese and Brewery, Homemade Wales, Celtic Wines, BL Gardens, Asia Spice Box, a local artist-photographer plus lots more crafts: ie homemade cards, candles, jewellery, Raw Chocolate.

There will be hot and cold food and drinks supplied by Little Blue Deli who are having a large marquee in the street.

A spokeswoman said: "On behalf of the High Street traders, we would like to thank all those who have contributed to get this event up and running, especially Mari-Wyn Ellias-Jones and Sarah Jones, both from the Vale Council.

"Thanks also to Jan Irving at The GEM for her support and time."

Just four minutes' walk from High Street, in St Paul's Avenue, shoppers can take advantage of a host of bargains at St Paul's Spring Fayre, famous for over 50 years for stalls full of bargains.

On sale will be toys, books, DVDs and CDs; gifts and cards; home-made cakes; bric-a-brac, sweets, crafts and a 'prize-every-time' stall.

There will be a big raffle with first prize of £50 and many other prizes including drinks and grocery hampers and home-made cakes, sandwiches and refreshments will be on sale.

All proceeds from the fayre are to help the continuing work of the Barry churches of St Paul's and Merthyr Dyfan.

The High Street market opens at 10am; the bargain fayre at St Paul's Hall is open from 2pm until 4pm, admission is 50p and entry for all children is free.

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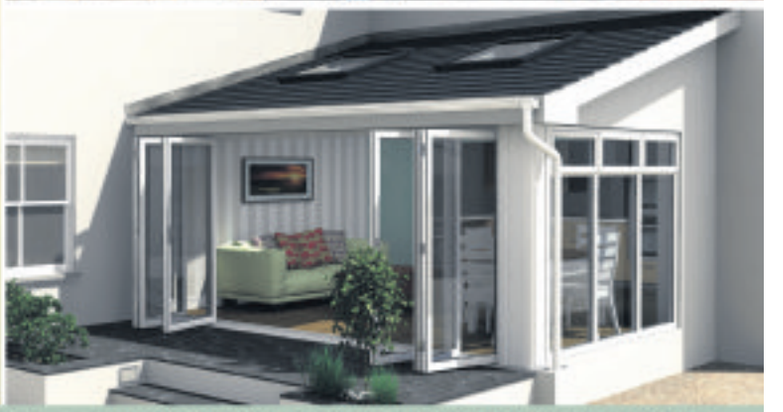

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‘SEISMIC’ RESULTS STUN THE PARTIES

How small numbers had massive impact in shock general election

ONE of the puzzles of the general election is how such a surprise – seismic and shocking are just two of the adjectives bandied about – can be triggered by such small numbers.

Consider the following figures – the swing from Labour to Conservative in the constituencies that are in The GEM’s circulation area.

In Bridgend, where Labour’s Madeleine Moon held her seat, the swing from Labour to Conservative was all of 0.5 per cent.

In Ogmore, Huw Irranca-Davies also held it for Labour with a swing to the Conservatives of 0.6 per cent.

In the Vale, number 63 in Labour’s top 100 targets, Alun Cairns increased his majority but even here the swing from Labour to the Conservatives was only 2.28 per cent.

The only seat to go against this tide was Cardiff South and Penarth, where Labour’s Stephen Doughty increased his majority, with the swing reversed, going from Conservative to Labour to the tune of 2.8 per cent.

These don’t look like the sort of numbers that can change the political landscape, but they did.

You would not at first glance imagine that a Labour leader would need to fall on his sword so quickly – but Ed Miliband was gone before lunch the following day.

Of course, the polling organisations – misled by the “shy Tories” – had predicted a swing in the other direction, so everyone (including the media) was completely caught out.

You can’t help wondering if Ed Miliband would have felt obliged to hurry off so quickly if the earlier polls had been more accurate. As it was, that ‘shocking’ exit poll left everyone stunned.

The big numbers in this election were to be found outside of the top two – as the collapse in the Lib-Dem vote was more dramatic than anyone could have foreseen.

In the four seats listed in this article, the Lib-Dems lost their deposit in each one. ‘Carnage’ seems to be the only appropriate word.

In 2010 in the Vale, Eluned Parrot polled 7,403, but last Thursday, David Morgan recorded just 1,309 – a staggering fall of over 6,000 votes.

In Bridgend, the Lib-Dems fell from 8,658 in 2010 to 1,648 – more than 7,000.

In Cardiff South and Penarth, the Lib-Dem vote plummeted from 9,875 to 2,318 – a fall of 7,657.

In Ogmore, the fall was still bad, but smaller – from 5,260 to 1,072 – more than 4,000.

So, where did the Lib-Dem vote go? It’s tempting to say that they went to UKIP, but that is an over-simplification.

Anyway, in each seat the UKIP vote is up, but not by as many as there were Lib-Dem defections.

REPORT by PHILIP IRWIN

Bridgend MP Madeleine Moon told The GEM that some Lib-Dem votes had traditionally been ‘protest votes’ – and she felt that those had gone to UKIP.

However, the destination of committed Lib-Dems was more complex.

Kevin Mahoney, who stood for UKIP in the Vale, told The GEM: “I expected some Lib-Dem voters to go to Labour, although I’m sure that we did get a share.

“However, in Barry we felt that Labour voters were switching to us – and the fear of a Labour SNP link-up was the biggest factor there.”

For Plaid Cymru, it was another frustrating election. No deposits were lost in the four seats below, but some of the candidates came pretty close.

There had been hopes that Leanne Wood’s group hug with Nicola Sturgeon and Natalie Bennett at the candidates’ debate would sprinkle a bit of Scots Nats’ magic on the party, but it proved to be illusory.

The four seats represent two extremes in one way. Campaigning was very energetic in the Vale, with the Conservatives putting all their resources into defending the seat, while Labour were reported to have switched some canvassers from Cardiff North to the Vale.

Bridgend was very different, due to the sad death of Madeleine Moon’s husband, Steve. Mrs Moon told The GEM that Labour did not campaign at all for the first three weeks, and the tragic event meant that it was all very low-key.

In the end though, the result wasn’t far out of step with the other local seats. It tends to confirm the line of thought that says that UK national issues such as the economy, and how the respective leaders performed, were the key elements.

For UKIP, Kevin Mahoney said he was looking forward to the Assembly elections in 12 months time, and one suspects that the other parties are not – with the exception of the Conservatives.

The Welsh Conservative Leader Andrew RT Davies AM, said: “This has been an incredible night for Welsh Conservatives.

“These results are a giant leap forward for the party and I am extremely pleased for all our Members of Parliament – and for every candidate in Wales; all have made huge efforts during this campaign.

“This success is testament to our huge progress and good work for our country.”

He congratulated Alun Cairns, saying: “Alun’s increased majority was a reward for the hard work which he has undertaken on behalf of his constituents here in the Vale.”

Mr Davies added: “Another winner should not be forgotten. With Byron, Chris and James now joining Glyn and David (as MPs), I am glad to see the name Davies making further huge strides north and south – east and west!”

The general election results for the four constituencies in The GEM’s circulation area were as follows:

Vale of Glamorgan (turnout 71.1 per cent)
Alun Cairns Conservative 23,607
Chris Elmore Labour 16,727
Kevin Mahoney UK Independence Party 5,489
Ian Johnson Plaid Cymru 2,869
David Morgan Liberal Democrat 1,309
Alan Armstrong Green 1,054
Steve Reed Cannabis is Safer than Alcohol 238

Bridgend (turnout 65.8 per cent).
Madeleine Moon Labour 14,624
Meirion Jenkins Conservative 12,697
Caroline Jones UK Independence Party 5,911
James Radcliffe Plaid Cymru 2,784
Anita Davies Liberal Democrat 1,648
Les Tallon-Morris Independent 763
Tony White Green 736
Aaron David TUSC 118
David Elston Pirate Party UK 106
Adam Lloyd National Front 66

Ogmore (turnout 63.7 per cent).
Huw Irranca-Davies Labour 18,663.
Jane March Conservative 5,620.
Glenda Davies UK Independence Party 5,420.
Tim Thomas Plaid Cymru 3,556
Gerald Francis Liberal Democrat 1,072
Laurie Brophy Green 754
Emma Saunders TUSC 165

Cardiff South and Penarth (turnout 61.6%)
Stephen Doughty Labour Co-op 19,966
Emma Warman Conservative 12,513
John Rees-Evans (UKIP) 6,423
Ben Foday Plaid Cymru 3,443
Nigel Howells Lib-Dem 2,318
Anthony Slaughter Green 1,746
Ron Saunders TUSC 258

GEM NOTE: TUSC = Trade Unionist and Socialist Coalition

Chapel’s anniversary

ANNIVERSARY services will be held on Sunday, May 17 at 11am and 6pm, when friends are reunited at Horeb Chapel, Nantymoel.

William Hughes, former pator at Horeb chapel and Pastor Chris Bluto, will bring the messages. All are welcome.

Call Pastor Bluto for details on 01443 675424, or contact chris_bluto@yahoo.co.uk.

BAVO advice

BRIDGEND Association of Voluntary Organisations (BAVO) is holding a funding drop-in session at its offices on Commercial Street in Maesteg on May 20 from 2pm – 4pm.

Community or voluntary groups in Bridgend county borough can get free advice and guidance on funding.

For further details, call BAVO on 01656 810400.

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Spooks film makes leap from small screen to big screen with aplomb...

by GARETH JAMIESON
Follow Screen Talk on Twitter – @GEMScreenTalk

AS dark and brooding Jon Snow in hit TV series *Game of Thrones*, Kit Harrington has picked up plenty of acclaim, the actor transferring his talents to the big screen in the poor blockbuster *Pompeii* last year, and earlier this year in *Testament of Youth*.

He brings up the British end, as it were, as he stars in TV series-turned-movie *Spooks: The Greater Good*. He plays Will Holloway, a protege of spy boss Harry Pearce (Peter Firth), who is tasked with tracking down his former boss after he disappears following the escape of terror suspect Adem Qasim (Elyes Gabel). Wth a terror attack on London looming, Will must put the pieces of what has happened together, find Qasim and clear Pearce's name...

Confession time – while I have a passing knowledge of *Spooks*, I've never settled down to watch an episode of it. I'm aware of the ongoing rotation of secret agents who have graced the show through the years (from Richard Armitage to Matthew Macfadyen, Hermione Norris to Miranda Raison), that deaths are gruesome and shocking (one involved a deep fat fryer) and the marketing slogan "MI5 not 9 to 5", but aside from that I am very much in the dark.

Any worries that *The Greater Good* was a treat for fans only, however, were soon assuaged by a solidly realised film that certainly makes passing nods to the past, but also looks firmly to a future, playing like a British take on *24*, full of twists and turns, drama and spectacle. While it never quite makes the leap from good to great, it's still an espionage drama well worth investing in, fan or no fan.

More than just a procession of shoot-outs and set-pieces, *The Greater Good* aims for the mind, fashioning a story where you can't trust anyone at face value and that anything could happen at any moment.

This edge of your seat storytelling is not just compelling but also wonderfully taut – you don't need gun fights to create tension, just two characters warily assessing the situation and the fact that neither knows what the other may or may not do.

The story here is anchored around series mainstay Peter Firth as Harry Pearce, and his attempts to get to the bottom of how a terrorist suspect escaped custody. While the posters would have you think otherwise, Firth is very much to the forefront of the story, and while Kit Harrington may do the physical lifting, it's Firth's tremendous performance that drives the story.

Quietly charismatic, Pearce will go to great lengths for the titular greater good (a point rather too broadly hammered home in the film's climax) and it's his murky moral compass that provides the real meat here, the film asking questions of what is right and what is wrong.

Harrington impresses as the former spy coerced into chasing down Harry, even if he isn't overly good at doing it, Pearce always seemingly outwitting to an almost embarrassing degree; indeed, as the wonderful Tim McInnerny wonderfully puts it: "I can see why he decommissioned you".

Yet aside from this, Harrington provides a solid outing with a relatively underdeveloped character, acting as the audience's eyes and ears.

Director Bharat Nalluri's TV background does show in the visual economy of the piece, but he imbues the piece with no end of tension and drama, cleverly highlighting the fact that you don't necessarily need to go globetrotting to create a worthy spy thriller.

Where the film does lose points is in having a villain whose reputation is greater than his actions, Elyes Gabel's Qasim feeling no more than a rote terrorist, despite suggestions to the contrary, while some story strands feel ill-resolved (the fate of Will's father, for example) and undercooked.

However *Spooks: The Greater Good* is a dependable thriller that entertains without ever catching fire; it may have a little more cache for those fans of the series, but even newcomers will find much to savour here.

VERDICT: A solidly satisfying big screen outing for a TV show, *Spooks: The Greater Good* transfers to cinemas with success. A powerful central turn from Peter Firth makes this engaging, twist-filled effort worth watching for both hardened fans and those who are uneducated in the ways of the show. *Enjoyable*.

SEE THIS IF YOU LIKED: *The Bourne Identity* (2002), *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy* (2011).

NEWS IN BRIEF

Street demo

ON Thursday, May 14, Cowbridge Art Society welcome Cardiff artist Paul Weaver, who will give a demonstration of painting a street scene in watercolour.

Paul is an experienced tutor, has exhibited widely, has published articles in The Artist magazine, has made his own DVD on watercolour painting, and is an elected member of the Pure Watercolour Society.

Cowbridge Art Society meets on Thursday evenings at the Old Hall, Cowbridge, (7pm–9pm) and visitors and new members are welcome.

For details of the society's activities, see www.cowbridgeartsociety.com.

Fashion show

CARDIFF and Vale Breakthrough Group will be holding a charity fashion show on May 15 to raise money for breast cancer research in support of the charity, Breakthrough Breast Cancer.

Tickets are £8, and the fashion show starts at 7pm. For tickets and more information, please contact Pam on 07191 035658.

WOMAN IN GOLD – DON'T TRUST THE TRAILER

MOVIE trailers are notorious for giving a false impression of a film, *writes Philip Irwin*.

All the best bits get crammed into two minutes, making a dull effort look dazzling.

So, who on earth put together the trailer for *Woman in Gold?* – because it does the opposite and undersells what is a really fine film.

Viewers of the trailer see Helen Mirren playing Maria Altman, an eccentric lady with an eastern European accent, and we are told it is a legal drama about her attempt to reclaim her family's paintings, looted by the Nazis when they took control of Austria.

The paintings, all by Gustaf Klimt, now hang in Austria's national museum, and the most famous by far is of Maria's aunt Adele, the *Woman in Gold*.

To this end, she recruits a young American lawyer, E Randol Schoenberg, played by Ryan Reynolds, to take the Austrian government to court.

However, *Woman in Gold* is much more than a quirky legal drama.

There is an extended flash back to the Nazi occupation, capturing the turmoil and tragedy of the time, and bringing tears to your eyes when Maria and her husband make the decision to flee.

There's a brilliantly-shot, tension-packed sequence when they escape their Gestapo minders, and then the film returns to the present day, giving a strong cast a fine script to work with.

Mirren and Reynolds take the lion's share of the acting plaudits, but there are fine performances by Daniel Bruhl, as an Austrian who is dealing with his own demons as a result of the war, and Jonathan Pryce, as the chief justice of the US Supreme Court.

It's good to see Katie Holmes back on screen after the Tom Cruise years – she plays Reynolds' wife, and Tatiana Maslany, who plays the young Helen Mirren, is one to watch for the future.

Woman in Gold may have moved on from the multiplexes, but it is well worth catching this thought-provoking and well-written British film if you get the chance.

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Cadets prove to be 'model' students

CADETS from 372 (Barry) Squadron Air Training Corps have recently formed a squadron model-making club.

The first instructional day was supervised by civilian instructors Ade Pitman and Glenn Gill, who themselves are model makers.

Ade Pitman said: "During a visit to a model show at the Fleet Air Arm Museum at Yeovilton in Somerset, Cadets had the opportunity to try their hands at making model aircraft, many for the first time, at the 'Project Airfix' display.

"Like everyone new to a hobby, the first efforts wouldn't win any prizes but the Cadets asked if we could organise regular model making days, so they could learn how to improve their skills. "

Now the Squadron holds a 'model making day' once a month, where the Squadron provides the models and materials to the Cadets so that they can learn about the fascinating hobby of model making.

Models made by the Cadets will be displayed at model shows, including the next Fleet Air Arm Museum Model Show, in October. The Cadets will also be representing the Barry Squadron at the South Wales 'Wing' Cadet Model Competition later this summer.

Most of the model kits being made by the Cadets have been donated by local modellers, and we would very much like to hear from anyone who has some unmade model kits that you would like to donate to a good home.

Model making is just one activity carried out by the Air Training Corps Cadets, and this summer they also have lined up Duke of Edinburgh expeditions, flying in light aircraft, museum visits, archery, shooting and many other activities. The Squadron has vacancies for boys and girls between 13-18 years old, and parades on Mondays and Wednesdays 7pm–9.30pm, behind Adams Funeral Parlour (by the Memorial Hall). Contact the squadron on 01446 747734 or email oc.372@aircadets.org for more information.

Emojis boosts youth confidence

A PRESENTATION evening on April 17 celebrated the success of local young people involved in the Emojis project.

The project, run by the Vale Council's Youth Service team, aims to help young people learn to better express themselves, and build self-esteem and confidence levels.

They take part in a wide range of activities including singing and music production, film making, and sound engineering, as well as sports.

Certificates were presented by Vale Mayor, Coun Howard Hamilton, and director of learning and skills, Jennifer Hill.

The Emojis project is supported by Families First, Barry YMCA, Fact, and The Hub, as well as the Council's Youth Service.

Hospital opening a new coffee shop

UNIVERSITY Hospital Llandough will be opening a new coffee shop later this year – as part of the new Plaza facility being built at the hospital.

The Aroma Café opened its first branch on Monday (May 11) at Noah's Ark Children's Hospital for Wales in Cardiff and will serve up high quality coffee and other food and drink refreshments.

The Cardiff and Vale University Health Board venture will see all the proceeds re-invested into local patient care.

Geoff Walsh, assistant director of planning, capital, estates and operational services, said the scheme would help make the most of the health board's assets and would be expanding to other areas and hospitals.

He said: "Renting out space to coffee companies is an easy option. I believe we have got to make the most of the opportunities we have here and Aroma Café will do that."

There are plans to develop another café in the women's unit at University Hospital of Wales and at University Hospital Llandough.

Peaches needs a home!

PEACHES is a four-year-old Samoyed-cross German Shepherd who is lively and boisterous, but adores people.

She does lack socialising skills with other dogs – and will need owners who can help her improve on this.

Peaches is a friendly and beautiful dog, but she does have some behavioural issues which will have to be worked on, with advice from our trainers.

Children in the home will need to be over 14 years of age, and Peaches will need to be the only dog in the home. With the correct training put in place, Peaches will make a fun and rewarding companion.

If you can offer Peaches a home, please call us on 01656 725219 or pop into Dogs Trust Bridgend, we're open 12pm-4pm every day except Wednesday.

LINDA FEAGAN, Supporter Relations Officer, Dogs Trust Bridgend

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ORGANISERS HOPE DOG SHOW RAISED MORE THAN £2,000 FOR ANIMAL WELFARE

BY popular demand, The GEM is showing some more images of the Seventh Annual Charity Fun Dog Show organised by the Friends of Victoria Park, Barry.

There was fun for all sizes and and types of dog with the ever popular dog race track, musical mats, sausage catching and a host of other competitions.

Special guest on the day was Dr Rhys Jones star of BBC1's Wildlife Patrol who helped to judge some of the events. Rhys has been a great supporter of the show and is patron of Friends of the Dogs Wales.

Organisers are hoping to have raised more than £2,000 for local dog and animal charities.

Full details along with lots more photographs will be on the 'Victoria Park, Barry - What's occurring?' Facebook page.

People can also vote for their favourite class winner to be crowned Champion of the Show and win the Sue Price Memorial Trophy – look on the Facebook page for details.

Victoria Park manager, Jon Greatrex, told The GEM: "It was another superb and delightful dog show! Despite the rain in the morning, the weather cleared up, everybody came along and we had a super time.

"Thanks to all the friends, volunteers, supporters, staff and visitors who came and made lucky number 7 such a fun and successful day."

PHOTOGRAPHS by ANGELA MAGEE
TEL: 07540 095908

ABOVE: Kelis, aged 10, with wonderful standard poodle Lola.

ABOVE: Claire Ball with Bonnie the Jack Russell.

ABOVE: Jennifer enjoying the sun with 'Heinz 57' Crystal

Peppa the labrador.

Council launches new 3G pitches...

BUT ATHLETICS CLUB SAYS IT WILL LOSE OUT

THE Vale Council has announced that it will be investing in five new all-weather 3G sports pitches, including one at Barry's Jenner Park Stadium, to allow a greater number of teams of all ages and abilities to use the ground.

The council will also be installing four five-a-side 3G pitches at the Colcot Sports Centre. However, athletics club Barry & Vale Harriers is opposed to the plan.

Coun Gwyn John, cabinet member for visible services, said: "With this project, we are delivering yet more opportunities for people of all ages and abilities to get involved in sport in the Vale.

"The plan that has been agreed by cabinet marks the start of an exciting sporting and community legacy project which will help us continue our work to regenerate Barry."

The council believes installation of the all-weather pitches will dramatically reduce the cost of maintaining and running both sites, and even greater savings may be possible if facilities were in future managed by an external partner, as is the case with the county's leisure centres. This will now be investigated.

A Barry & Vale Harriers spokeswoman said that the club had over 100 years association with Jenner Park and is completely opposed to the 3G pitch.

She continued: "Despite requesting several meetings with Vale councillors, and also Vale MP Alun Cairns, no-one from the Vale Council has been available to meet Barry & Vale Harriers, or Welsh Athletics, since the publication of the 3G Pitch Feasibility Report.

"The council states that the athletics facilities will not be affected. Can the Vale Council offer us a training facility when construction begins in 12 weeks time, right in the middle of our competition season?

"Can the Vale Council guarantee that Jenner Park will not lose any lanes of track? Can the Vale Council offer us a facility for javelin throwing?

"For many years the athletics community has had to fight for money to be spent on the track at Jenner Park. Time and again we were told there was no money available and yet the Vale Council now has funding for several 3G pitches at the Colcot and Jenner Park.

"Jenner Park is a community facility not just a footballing one. The athletics community, which includes Welsh schools and Vale schools and disability sports groups, will suffer from the installation of a 3G pitch.

"An on-line petition has been set up by Barry & Vale Harriers and over 500 people have signed. We hope that more people will join us in opposing this decision.

"Barry & Vale Harriers, along with Welsh Athletics, will continue to fight the decision."

Ty Hafan lottery rollover prize tops £11,000 mark

THE latest Tŷ Hafan Crackerjackpot lottery rollover prize now stands at an impressive £11,000 – and could reach a maximum of £12,000, where it will become a guaranteed prize.

"By becoming a member of Crackerjackpot for £1 a week, supporters have the chance to win big prizes which could fund a dream holiday, a new car and or maybe some home improvements," said John Mladenovic, Tŷ Hafan's Lottery general manger.

"Winning £11,000 could make a real difference to someone's life and we hope it will attract more local people to support us by playing the lottery.

"As well as being in with a chance of winning big cash prizes, every member of our Crackerjackpot lottery makes a real difference to life-limited children and their families from across Wales. Crackerjackpot provides a vital source of reliable income for Tŷ Hafan, raising around a third of the total amount needed every year."

"Back in 1998, the hospice began its own lottery, and since that time, has paid out more than £1.5 million to lucky winners from all over Wales who have chosen to support Tŷ Hafan in this way.

"The £11,000 draw will be made this Friday, May 15 so don't delay in buying your ticket either from one of Tŷ Hafan's 29 shops across Wales or become a member online at the website *www.lottery.tyhafan.org* or by calling 02920 532300."

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Sea Scouts collect certificates

A GROUP from 11th Barry Sea Scouts have received certificates to commemorate a visit to Parliament with other Scouts, Cubs and Beavers from Barry.

They are pictured with MP Alun Cairns, who said: "The leaders do such a wonderful job in the local community. Many of the group are now working towards the democracy badge, so I hope the trip to Parliament and certificates will be useful in attaining future badges."

VALE MAYOR HANDS CHEQUE TO CHARITY

THE Mayor and Mayoress of the Vale recently paid a visit to Swansea Airport to present a cheque to Wales Air Ambulance in respect of money raised for the charity during their year of office.

The Mayor, Coun Howard Hamilton, said: "I am very pleased to present this cheque to a very worthy charity and the Mayoress and I would like to thank everyone who has supported our fundraising events throughout our year."

Six questions on Vale developments

FOR over 12 months, The GEM has published letters from residents in locations throughout the Vale expressing their astonishment and concern that planning applications for large developments of housing have been submitted to the Vale planning department by large developers for approval.

In many instances, the approval has been given; the common thread in all the letters is that the applications are inappropriate both in size and nature for the locations in question.

What has been quite remarkable is that despite this ongoing well publicised issue, there has been no response by any of our elected officials in the Vale Council.

We must not forget that it is us, the people, who vote for the councillors in the expectation that they will represent our views when considering all issues relating to the Vale and in particular planning matters.

It is obvious that they have done no such thing and are totally ignoring the wishes of the majority whom they claim to represent. Furthermore, these public servants employed by the Vale have a duty to act in a fair and reasonable manner with regard to all planning issues. It cannot be stressed enough that our elected officials and the council officials are remunerated from the public purse which is filled by the taxes of the people they should be supporting.

The time has come when the Vale Council need to answer the following questions:

Why are they insisting on 10,000 houses being built when the figure suggested by the Welsh Government is 5,600?

Where will the 10,000 plus people appear from to purchase these houses?

Where will the buyers of these houses find employment?

Of the 10,000 houses, how many will be classed as 'affordable houses' and where will these be located?

What is the anticipated financial income that the developers will pay to the council for these 10,000 houses?

Why has the business plan to support this apparent nonsensical building programme not been published?

Gareth Jones,
Colwinston.

Volunteer Jack wins plaudits

BARRY resident Jack Hardman has been warmly praised for his voluntary work in supporting the community and the environment.

He led 'PULP', which tackled the problem of dog mess on the streets and in parks, before habits changed with the introduction of 'Scoop a poop' and educational messages for all ages.

On Saturday, the Vale AM congratulated him at her regular surgery and said: "Jack Hardman is well known for his extensive voluntary work to protect the environment and support the community. I thank him for all his hard work over many years, from which he is gradually retiring."

Jack Hardman with Vale AM Jane Hutt.

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MAY 24th-25th 2015

Cowbridge Food &Drink Festival

New date will make a difference to festival

'WE'RE BACK, with a fresh spring in our step!'

AFTER 18 months without a festival, we are at last gearing up for the 11th Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival.

It has, of course, changed date from October half term to May half term, which may not guarantee sun, but will hopefully provide some better weather – and at least give our trusty volunteers and contractors, daylight to work in.

The reason for the change was that ticket sales in October were incredibly weather-dependent and, frankly, the forecasted hurricanes of 2013 (which didn't really materialise) nearly finished us off. A few more years like that and our ability to stage and run the festival would have been gone.

So the decision was made to move to May – as the summer months were already taken with weddings and other events – and the planning started in January 2014. Now here we are with, hopefully, a fresh spring in our step, with a different season of produce creating variety, but with many of our old favourites back.

The addition of the Vale Forge site, has meant that we can create a'Food Court' area, where the whole family can eat their preference, but sit together and enjoy the local music at our new entertainment gazebo.

Ticket prices have remained the same this year, but we have become very modern (!) and set up an online bookings service which is proving popular. Our first tickets sold in January with a 10 per cent off promotion, and since then we have had a steady trickle – although tickets are, of course, available at the festival for each day and the weekend. *Opening hours are now 9.30am-5pm both days.*

As usual, we'd like to thank our sponsors, HSBC, who help us immensely over the

by JOHN DAVIES
Chair of the Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival

weekend with staffing the paypoints. This year, we welcome Macey Owen and Marriot Hotel Cardiff to the sponsor list, both of whom approached us and wanted to recognise the organisation for what it was doing for the community.

Thanks to all those who offer their land free of charge to the festival. Without you, this festival would not be able to continue.

The Welsh Government has kindly guaranteed an amount of funding towards the festival, but this by no means guarantees the festival long term and I would encourage all visitors to Cowbridge over the weekend, to buy a ticket and visit our stalls.

The town is amazingly supportive and holds some great satellite events during the festival, but without ticket sales, the infrastructure of park and ride, signage, marquees, electricity, press and marketing etc will not happen and the festival will cease to be.

I have had an amazing 10 years working on the festival and have been proud to be its Chair. But now I feel the time has come to hand over the reins. Thanks to all the committee members that I've worked with over the years for such hard work though cold, dark and drizzly days and nights.

It has been a thoroughly rewarding time and I hope that a suitable candidate can be found to take on this amazing event with an enthusiastic team and build for a great future.

Expert food demos at the festival on May 24-25

10.15am: Sian Roberts – Loving Welsh Food

SIAN is the Director of Loving Welsh Food, a new venture for 2015; the company offers Welsh food tours and safaris, cooking workshops, demonstrations and talks.

The whole idea of the company is to offer activities where people can taste and enjoy Welsh food and drink, find out more about our food heritage, and get to know Wales better!

"I love cooking, all kinds of food and drink, and I'm very proud of the fabulous food and drink that we have here in Wales", she says.

Sian has been promoting Welsh food for many years, and her work has taken her all over Wales, and to France, Italy, Belgium, Germany, Spain and New York.

She speaks Welsh, French and Italian fluently.

Sian also works for the media as a producer, presenter and voice-over artist. Sian is one of the S4C continuity announcers and freelance newsreader for BBC Radio Wales.

http://lovingwelshfood.uk/

11.30am: Wayne Thomas – Canteen on Clifton Street

WAYNE THOMAS is co-chef and co-owner of Canteen on Clifton Street in Cardiff – a vegetarian restaurant that has taken the city by storm. Since opening, Canteen has been nominated for numerous awards including being shortlisted for the Vegetarian Society Award for Best Vegetarian Food in both 2008 and 2009.

http://www.canteenoncliftonstreet.com

12.45pm: Anand George – Purple Poppadom, Cardiff

AWARD-winning chef, Anand George, is the driving force behind Purple Poppadom, Cardiff.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 22)

ABOVE: award-winning chef, Anand George.

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Acknowledgements

COWBRIDGE Food and Drink Festival Committee thank all our sponsors and supporters for their help with the 2015 festival:

Funders: Welsh Government.

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Thanks go to: 293sqn Air Training Corps, 750 Co-operative Food, Cowbridge Charter Trust, Cowbridge Chamber of Trade, Cowbridge Comprehensive School, Cowbridge Cricket Club, The Cowbridge GEM, Cowbridge Guide, Cowbridge Health Centre, Effective Communication, Fun Foundations Day Nursery, Lloyds TSB Bank plc, Llwynhelig Farm, Michael Prosser, South Wales Police, St John Ambulance, Watts Coaches, Xantippe, all committee members – and the town of Cowbridge and all the town traders.

Learn the tricks of the trade...

HANG FIRE SMOKEHOUSE – SOUTHERN STYLE BARBECUE

James Sommerin

COOKED.up

Nathan Wyburn

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 21)

From Kerala, India, Anand is one of the UK's most acclaimed chefs, renowned for his pioneering of Nouvelle-Indian cuisine, receiving awards including the prestigious Tiffin Cup for the UKs Best Indian cuisine, and South Asian Chef of the Year.

He recently made a debut entry in The Good Food Guide 2014, Purple Poppadom was also named the Welsh Curry House of the Year 2012 and Indian Restaurant of the Year in the South Wales Echo Food and Drinks Awards 2013.

http://www.purplepoppadom.com.

2pm: Bar 44, Cowbridge and Penarth

THE hugely successful and delicious tapas restaurant will demonstrate some of their amazing tapas to perk up any cocktail or dinner party.

http://www.bar44.co.uk.

3.15pm: CookED.up Cooking and Nutrition School

NEARLY three years old, CookED.up is a Cooking and Nutrition school based in south Wales and the west, catering for children and adults.

CookED.up offers cooking experiences for all abilities.

Whether you are an individual, a family wanting to learn to cook, or a school or business looking for a course or PoP.uP event, there's something for you.

CookEd.up also works with social enterprises and Communities First, as part of a wider community programme supporting healthy eating initiatives and cooking on a budget.

We have recently launched our third YES CHEF venue and also our Party Kitchens in Cowbridge.

http://www.cookedup.co.uk.

Monday, May 25

10.15am: Nathan Wyburn, artist and Britain's Got Talent semi-finalist

NATHAN WYBURN, aged 25, is a Welsh fine art graduate, who specialises mostly in creating iconic 'pop culture' imagery with non-traditional mediums, most notably food! Nathan has appeared on numerous shows, creating artworks with Marmite on toast, sauces, sugar, chocolate etc, as well as other everyday items (soil, candles, toothpaste etc).

He has exhibited all over the world and is appearing at Cowbridge to show a video of various processes and answer your questions about his fascinating (and tasty) work.

http://www.nathanwyburn.co.uk

11.30am: Hang Fire Smokehouse, Llantwit Major

WINNERS of 2015 BBCR4 Food Awards 'Best Streetfood', Samantha Evans and Shauna Guinn travelled to America in 2012/13 on a road trip, to truly experience the American BBQ.

Their mission was to learn from the masters and try as much as possible.

Their adventures included cooking for a rodeo in Houston (50 briskets, 300 chickens and 500 racks of spare rib!) and being entrusted to spice rub secrets that they have to "take to the grave". Hang Fire Smokehouse was born! Their mission? To recreate authentic southern style bbq and to elevate it to the next level, using British produce with unique flavour profiles.

Things are about to get very hot and smokey around here...

http://www.hangfiresmokehouse.com.

12.45pm: James Sommerin, James Sommerin Restaurant, Penarth

JAMES' first kitchen position was aged 12 yrs in and Italian restaurant in Newport, having gained his enthusiasm from Saturdays cooking with his grandmother.

After leaving school, he took a full time position in a hotel at Usk.

Aged 16, James moved to Scotland to work under Richard Lythe, who gave him an understanding of seasonality, quality and the essence of flavour.

In 2000, James and his wife returned to Wales to raise his family and took a position at the Crown at Whitebrook.

He became Head Chef in 2003 and gained a Michelin Star in 2007, which he retained until The Crown's doors closed in 2013.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 23)

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2015 FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL
The Glamorgan GEM
ACTIVITIES • EXHIBITOR LIST • TOWN MAP • FOOD DEMONSTRATION TIMES
MAY 24th-25th 2015
Cowbridge Food &Drink Festival

Demos with the experts...

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 22)

Full of enthusiasm for the next chapter, James recently opened his own restaurant in Penarth and Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival are thrilled to welcome him to the demo schedule.

http://www.jamessommerinrestaurant.co.uk

2pm: Nicholas Collins, Chef Director, GrATE Catering Ltd

CARDIFF-born chef Nick Collins started his career in the kitchens of Le Manior aux Quat Saisons with Raymond Blanc. Nick then moved into contract catering, where he competed in and won 'Compass Group Chef of the Year' in 2005 for Wales.

Nick cooked for celebrities and royalty in luxury chalets and on super yachts, before becoming the Senior Development Chef for national contract caterer Catering Academy – responsible for food development of £22m worth of business.

As a member of the Welsh Culinary Team, Nick helped to bring back the Battle of the Dragon honours to south Wales with his team mates. He has recently set up his own private dining and outside catering company called grATE catering and is due to open his restaurant in Laleston,

Called 'The Pickled Radish @ the Laleston Inn', it will be offering a relaxed Welsh fine dining restaurant using local Welsh produce.

http://www.gratecatering.uk.

3.15pm: George Fuchs, Illtud's 216, Llantwit Major

Nick Collins.

George Fuchs.

FORMER head chef of the St David's Hotel and Spa in Cardiff, George took over Illtud's 216 in 2007 and has gone from strength-to-strength. He is returning to the festival after many years and will be demonstrating how to make his amazing apple strudel.

http://www.illtuds216.co.uk.

SHOPS GET INTO FESTIVAL SPIRIT

WHILE Cowbridge will be a magnet for foodies on the Sunday and Monday of the Food Festival, those wanting to sample the delights of the High Street shops won't be disappointed either.

Many local traders are getting into the festival spirit with special offers, tombola days, glasses of fizz, and bargains to be had.

Although the festival runs officially from Sunday, May 24 to Monday, May 25, the Champagne Tent at the Bear Hotel is hosting two charity events on Friday, May 22 and Saturday, May 23. Friday night is an event in support of Coleg Elidyr with live music, champagne on arrival and supper (tickets £30).

On Saturday evening, there is an event in support of Velindre Hospital – champagne on arrival and live music to get you in the party mood (tickets £15).

Tickets for both events are available from Jon Ian, 18 High Street Cowbridge 01446 775226.

The Bear Hotel welcomes guest chef Adam Wood for the Food Festival

• *Here he describes his culinary journey from Cowbridge to London and back...*

AFTER attending Cowbridge Comprehensive School until the completion of my A-Levels, I moved to London aged 18, to start my cooking career.

Having worked part-time at Oscars Cowbridge, I was full of enthusiasm and eager to learn, but little did I know of what awaited me.

My first job was under Marcus Wareing, the 2 Michelin-starred chef, and current '*Masterchef Professionals*' judge, at his newly-opened restaurant, The Gilbert Scott.

Looking back now, I am very grateful and appreciative of my time there, I met some great people and learnt about more than just food. Yet having gone from six hours a day in school to working 17 hours a day in a kitchen, I can safely say I didn't feel the same back then.

For the first five months, I contemplated leaving at nearly every 1am, for the train home, knowing that in five hours time, I'd be doing the very same journey in the opposite direction. As time goes on, the lack of sleep, the berating at work, (to put it politely) and the high pressured environment, just becomes part of what you do... it starts to become quite infectious.

I learnt a great deal at The Gilbert Scott and by the end of my two and a half years there, I was running the sauce section; which is considered the most important in every kitchen.

While there, I learnt to butcher the whole animal and the importance of using every part; there are far tastier things than a fillet! I believe my final six months at The Gilbert Scott to be the most important of my short career so far.

Having done every section, it was time for a change. I was offered a position at the 2-star Michelin restaurant, 'The Square' in Mayfair.

It was a step up in both the standard of cooking and the general intensity of six to eight months, learning the art of pastry and bread baking before moving into the main kitchen, where I would start to expand and refine my knowledge.

From working in these restaurants, I have learnt to cook and eat with the British seasons, therefore gaining a deep respect for nature, and the stunning produce it provides us with.

I believe that in supporting small, local producers and farmers, it will not only benefit the community and environment, but will also drastically improve the standard of food we eat.

(CONTINUED ON PAGE 24)

Andrew Wood.

Cowbridge Food &Drink Festival
24 - 25 May 2015
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2015 FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL The Glamorgan GEM

ACTIVITIES • EXHIBITOR LIST • TOWN MAP • FOOD DEMONSTRATION TIMES

MAY 24th-25th 2015

Cowbridge Food & Drink Festival

CHEF ADAM WILL BE COOKING UP A TREAT!

(CONTINUED FROM PAGE 23)

I've chosen to cook free range pigs from a local farm. Pork is a very highly used meat but I believe it to be very underrated, and not generally used to its full potential. I want to show everyone that there is much more to a pig than just bacon, and that when cooked in the right way, every part of the animal can taste amazing.

I will be cooking over wood and coal, which will give the meat a lovely sweet and smoky flavour, whilst enhancing the natural taste.

I'm very much looking forward to cooking for the Food Festival – it's a great opportunity, not only to challenge myself, but also to introduce people to something different.

Having enjoyed my past visits to Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival, I've always felt the 'drink' was the primary attraction. I would love to change a few people's perceptions by offering delicious food alongside great drink at The Bear Marquee this year.

I look forward to seeing you there!"

ADAM WOOD

Cowbridge activities during the festival

OVER the festival weekend there will be lots to see and do around the town.

Many businesses hold their own promotions, so it is always worth visiting the local shops, but keep looking at the website for an up-to-date list.

List of activities so far:

Treasure trail – We have commissioned a treasure trail for families to explore Cowbridge fully, guiding you through alleys, looking at old landmarks, and solving clues. Eventually, you will find the treasure!

You can download this from our website *www.cowbridgefoodanddrink.org*

Copies are available over the weekend.

Fun Foundations Day Nursery – have opened their doors to offer a home to our Magical Chef – Simon Sparkles and Johno will be entertaining the crowds by cooking up a few spells, with magic shows and balloon twisting and a side serving of fun and laughter!

Shows start at 11.30am and 3.30pm each day in Fun Foundations.

Dandy Doodles – Expert face painting will be available in the Food Court site.

'The Angels' from Heart FM – will be in the Food Court area on Sunday with goody-bags and games, and holding a free draw for an amazing hamper of produce and vouchers.

Gemma Griffiths – Mini photo sessions are being offered free of charge on May 24, so book early at *www.facebook.com/gemmagriffithsphotography*.

Vale of Glamorgan Inn is hosting a real ale festival from Friday evening to Monday evening (or until they run out!)

The Bear Hotel – As well as having the champagne bar in their car park with the amazing Aubrey performing, The Bear will have a wealth of foodie activities in their courtyard throughout the weekend and festivities continue over the road at Quarter Penny Café.

Craft fayre – Run by a local business, this will be on the car park of The Duke of Wellington Inn and has a variety of lovely craft stalls.

Produce Fair – Holy Cross Church (Monday only) will have something for all children, from artists to flower arrangers and more.

For a full list visit our website or search out details in this supplement.

Loving Welsh Food tours – This new venture by Sian Basset Roberts will launch on May 19 and is holding taster tours over the bank holiday.

Tickets and more information are available from the website. Sian is also appearing in the Demo Marquee.

Choir Festival – Holy Cross Church (Sunday afternoon) will host several local choirs performing a variety of choral arrangements.

For more info, email tracy@cowbridgefoodanddrink.org

Ambassadors

FOR the first time ever, Vale of Glamorgan Tourism Ambassadors will be available at the main information point during the Cowbridge Food and Drink Festival.

The Vale is a destination offering a diversity of experiences, featuring the Heritage Coast, countryside and culture.

Ambassadors are keen to share their knowledge and passion about the Vale of Glamorgan with visitors so that they can get the most out of their time here.

Whether you want to know a local walking route, find out more about the Heritage Coast, Iolo Morgannwg and other local legends, or need somewhere to eat, drink or stay, make sure you speak to an Ambassador!

You will find them outside Cowbridge Town Hall on the day, ready with information to assist your choice of activity.

You can contact an ambassador through www.lovethevale.com and www.MoretotheVale.com

INFORMATION

Festival opening hours: 9.30am to 5pm Sunday and Monday, May 24 – 25.

***Ticket prices**: £5/day or £8 for the weekend. 12 years and under admitted free. Tickets will be available on the day of the festival from the booths on North Road, adjacent to the main festival sites, or you can purchase them online to avoid the queue.*

If purchased online, you can simply make your way to the Arthur John car park entrance, where you will be given a wristband for the rest of your visit – please bring proof of purchase.

The wristband tickets must be worn (not simply waved) to gain access to any of the festival sites.

Wearers of the wristband will also be eligible for other discounted activities and offers – a full list of which will be available online and over the weekend.

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Friday 22nd May
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Saturday 23rd & Sunday 24th May
from 2pm BBQ, Pimms & Prosecco Garden, live music from Tom Sutch.
Monday 25th May
from 12pm BBQ, Pimms & Prosecco Garden.

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THE COWBRIDGE FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL 2015
The Mayor of the Vale of Glamorgan Council, Councillor
Fred Johnson,
would like to wish everyone involved with The Cowbridge Food & Drink Festival a happy and successful weekend.

Hoffai Maer Cyngor Bro Morgannwg, y Cynghorydd Fred Johnson, ddymuno penwythnos hapus a llwyddiannus i bawb sy'n ymwneud a Gwyl Win, Diod a Bwyd Celtaidd y Bont-Faen.

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2015 FOOD & DRINK FESTIVAL

The Glamorgan GEM

ACTIVITIES • EXHIBITOR LIST • TOWN MAP • FOOD DEMONSTRATION TIMES

Flower and produce show will be held on May 25

WE are holding a children's flower and produce show at Holy Cross Church on Monday, May 25; this is for primary school-age children so we are hoping for lots of imagination in the categories:

Each category will be divided into Key stage 1 and Key stage 2 – apart from Best Victoria Sponge, where it is Key stage 2 only.

The cost is 50p per entry per child. There is no limit to how many categories you enter.

This entry money will be given to charities that have been picked by local schoolchildren.

Flowers in a Jam Jar: Any flowers in any jam jar, you can choose to decorate the jar or leave it plain! Please don't pick wildflowers: perhaps it would be a good idea to ask a grownup what kind of flowers can be picked!

Animal made out of a vegetable: kindly sponsored by Norma Davies Opticians.

This is going to be a lot of fun – choose a vegetable (any kind) and carve, peel, decorate any way you like to make it look like an animal. Please note that it does NOT have to be life-sized…

Ugliest Vegetable: kindly sponsored by Infographics.

We all know that most vegetables taste scrummy, but some of them don't look particularly tasty when you see them in the shop. You have to find the ugliest looking vegetable you can!

You can add your own decorations to turn it into a really ugly looking member of the vegetable family!

Best Victoria Sponge: kindly sponsored by The Elephant and Bun.

Get out your pinny and get baking! What do you think makes a Victoria Sponge special? The jam? The sponge? The cream? You can decide what ingredients go in!

Bring along the whole cake, as in this case it is important how it looks.

The judges will be tasting a slice or two of this one, so make sure it's super tasty!

Garden in a shoe box: kindly sponsored by Liquorice Laces.

Find a shoe box and then build a garden inside it; we like the idea of you using natural materials that you find outside, but you are more than welcome to make your own as well! Lots of great sized empty boxes available at Liquorice Laces!

Best decorated cupcake: kindly sponsored by Cakes for Celebrations.

How adventurous can you be with the humble cupcake? You could always have a look online for some inspiration. The cupcakes need to be homemade. Only one cupcake per entry, so make it a great one!

Picture made of sweets: You can really let your imagination go wild with this one – choose any (real) sweets that you want and make a picture out of them. No bigger than A4, please!

Greeting card out of pressed flowers: kindly sponsored by The Pencil Case.

There are some very pretty spring flowers out at the moment: preserve a couple by pressing them and making a lovely greeting card of your choice, one card per entry!

Tallest cress: Quite simple! Grow cress as tall as you can – and see if yours is the tallest!

Superhero head out of a potato: kindly sponsored by Fich and Ramous.

Lots of fun to be had making up your own superhero using the good old spud! You can add whatever detail you need using any materials you like. For extra fun why not give your superhero head a superhero name?

Best Cucumber carving: kindly sponsored by Vale Tourism Association.

Grab the humble cucumber and see what you can create, whether you want to do a carving of St Paul's Cathedral or just carve your name – it's up to you. You can add accessories using any materials you like!

Spaghetti Sculpture: kindly sponsored by Michael Lieberman.

Make sure the spaghetti is uncooked before you start creating a structure using just the pasta and glue – no accessories or other materials!

• *Details you will need for the day:*
Monday, May 25
Holy Cross Church, Cowbridge
Open 10am
Entries close at 12pm
Judging to take place 12.30pm – 1.30pm
Collect your entries from 2pm
Close 3pm

Money will have to be paid on entry, just look out for one of our helpers who can guide you to where you need to place your entry, you will then be given a short form to fill out with your name and number on it. Once judging has finished, you are free to take your entry home!

There will be prizes for those who come first in their category.

The top three winners in each category will receive a small gift – and don't forget – each category is split into Key Stage 1 and Key Stage 2 – except the Victoria Sponge category!

If you have any queries at all, email tracy@cowbridgefoodanddrink.org

• ***For an up-to-date list of activities, follow us on Facebook and Twitter.***

DISABLED PARKING AND PARK & RIDE

AS in previous years, we have worked with the Vale of Glamorgan Council to secure extra disabled parking.

Unfortunately this year, due to forces out of the festival's control, there are not as many as we'd hoped, but there will be more than the usual offering at the Town Hall car park.

However, as this area is not now in our jurisdiction, we will not be stewarding with volunteers as in previous years, to try to accommodate as many blue badge holders as possible.

Instead, there will be enforcement officers on site, making sure that these are used appropriately.

Therefore, please ensure that you display your badge clearly, if you are lucky enough to get a space.

We would stress that the Comprehensive park and ride site is on a level surface, with good-sized bays and the P&R buses are wheelchair compliant; so suggest trying this site if at all possible, to avoid disappointment in the centre of town.

We would advise all visitors to use the Park and Ride if at all able to do so.

This is entirely free and very efficient and regular and will deposit you in the centre of Cowbridge, to experience the delights of the town and festival.

We should also say that with enforcement officers in Cowbridge that weekend, you should pay special attention to parking restrictions in general.

We are sorry for any inconvenience, but this is entirely out of our control.

Vale of Glamorgan

Farmers' Market – Fresh from the Field

Local Quality Value

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Young musicians do the Vale proud!

Pictured left to right are : Jack Ollier, Caitlin Ellis, Tabitha Hughes, Isobelle Lambert.

YOUNG musicians from Barry, all of whom are students with Jo Weaving LWCMD, are celebrating after a very successful weekend at this year's South Glamorgan Festival for Young Musicians.

In the intermediate woodwind class, Jack Ollier was placed first on his recorder, playing a piece titled 'Coffee and Croissant, which had a distinct French feel to the music, and third on his clarinet playing a piece called 'Poco Adagio', which means 'a little slow'.

Jack then went on to be placed also in the Intermediate (a) piano class where he performed a humorous piece by Villa Lobos.

Isobelle Lambert was placed second in the Intermediate Piano (b) class, and performed a characterful Prelude, while Tabitha Hughes was placed third in the same class and played a jazzy number called 'Moody Prawn Blues'.

Caitlin Ellis took part in the year-4 piano class where she received a glowing report and a special complement for her use of the pedal in her traditional piece, 'The Linconshire Poache'.

In other successes, Jemima Whiffen passed her grade 2 piano with merit and Jack Ollier passed his grade 5 theory, also with merit. Manon Pearce sat her piano prep test.

Fourteen students took part in a music making afternoon, organised by Jo, where each student was given the opportunity to perform two pieces to a selected audience made up of friends and family.

Performances were given on a variety of instruments, including the piano, descant recorder, clarinet, trumpet and saxophone.

A BLOOMING GREAT TEA PARTY!

MARIE CURIE has renewed its appeal for people to host a Blooming Great Tea Party to raise funds for the charity between June 20-29.

Karen Jones, fundraiser at the hospice, said: "We know that our local community enjoys holding these fun events to help support Marie Curie and hope that both previous and new hosts sign up to support the charity.

"All the money raised will help Marie Curie provide expert care, guidance and support to help people living with a terminal illness get the most from the time they have left in their own homes and in the Marie Curie Hospice Cardiff and the Vale in Penarth."

Contact Karen Jones on 02920 426068, for further information.

Open Gardens in Penarth

THE annual Open Gardens Trail in Penarth is on July 24 – 25. For further information, email ann@lush.eu.com; telephone 02920 703547.

TO THE WOODS! Class was on a mission

AFTER school on April 20, Mr Bartlett and five students from Barry Comprehensive went to the woods in Porthkerry Country Park, to collect timber for the school's woodworking club.

Using only hand tools and muscle power, the students split in half an eight foot log and used a two-man crosscut saw to reduce the length of another log, so it would fit safely on the trailer.

The aim of the project is to use the timber to manufacture furniture which the park rangers can use in the lodge garden.

All the students worked really hard to complete the task and worked well as a team to manipulate the heavy logs.

The school would like to thank Country Park Ranger Mel Stewart, for supporting the project. **AC**

Elliot, Harry, Luke, Owain and Owen working on the logs.

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Would you like to represent your community and make a valuable contribution to education and training in your capital region?

Cardiff and Vale College [CAVC] is a centre place in the region. With a bold and ambitious vision we are transforming education and training across Cardiff, the Vale of Glamorgan and beyond.

We are one of the largest and most innovative colleges in the country - with 20,000 learners and 1,000 staff. Our wide ranging offer covers Further Education, Higher Education, Work-Based Learning, Adult Basic Education, international programmes and a rapidly expanding bespoke service for employers. We are inspiring young people to achieve, be employable and progress; supporting adults to develop skills; and working in partnership with employers to meet their business needs. We are developing new sector-leading campuses for education and training - starting with our brand new £45m City Centre Campus in the heart of the city this summer. Through all this we are working with a vast and valued network of partners to achieve our vision and support this vibrant Capital Region.

CAVC is seeking members to join our board to fulfil the requirements of our new Governance structure. There are several roles available with varying commitments. These are:

- **Governors**
- **Committee Members**
- **Community Board Members** [for both our Cardiff Community Board and Vale Community Board]

We are looking for community representation at the heart of our Board.
All roles are voluntary, with remuneration for expenses.

Join us. Find out more or apply: cavc.ac.uk/joinourboard

Closing date for applications: 20.05.15

Hoffech chi gynrychioli eich cymuned a gwneud cyfraniad gwerthfawr at addysg a hyfforddiant yn rhanbarth eich prifddinas?

Mae Coleg Caerdydd a'r Fro [CCAF] yn lle canolog yn y rhanbarth. Gyda gweledigaeth feiddgar ac uchelgeisiol, rydym yn trawsnewid addysg a hyfforddiant ledled Caerdydd, Bro Morgannwg a thu hwnt.

Ni yw un o'r colegau mwyaf a mwyaf arloesol yn y wlad - gydag 20,000 o ddysgwyr a 1,000 o staff. Mae ein darpariaeth eang yn cynnwys Addysg Bellach, Addysg Uwch, Dysgu Seiliedig ar Waith, Addysg Sylfaenol i Oedolion, rhaglenni rhyngwladol a gwasanaeth pwrpasol i gyflogwyr sy'n ehangu'n gyflym. Rydym yn ysbrydoli pobl ifanc i gyflawni, cael eu cyflogi a sicrhau cynnydd; yn cefnogi oedolion i ddatblygu sgiliau; ac yn gweithio mewn partneriaeth â chyflogwyr i ddiwallu eu hanghenion busnes. Rydym yn datblygu campysau blaengar newydd ar gyfer addysg a hyfforddiant - gan ddechrau gyda'n campws newydd sbon gwerth £45m yng Nghanol y Ddinas yr haf yma. Drwy gyfrwng hyn i gyd, rydym yn gweithio gyda rhwydwaith helaeth a gwerthfawr o bartneriaid er mwyn cyflawni ein gweledigaeth a chefnogi'r Brifddinas Ranbarth llwyddiannus hwn.

Mae CCAF yn chwilio am aelodau i ymuno â'n bwrdd i gyflawni gofynion ein strwythur Llywodraethu newydd. Mae sawl rôl ar gael gyda'r ymrwymiad yn amrywio. Maent fel a ganlyn:

- **Llywodraethwyr**
- **Aelodau Pwyllgor**
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Ymunwch â ni. Rhagor o wybodaeth neu i ymgeisio: cavc.ac.uk/ymunwch

Y dyddiad cau ar gyfer y ceisiadau yw: 20.05.15

'REWARD FOR SUCCESS'

ON the assumption that Marco is too busy running his successful business, and as a regular and satisfied customer of his cafe, I am driven to reply to the facile comments of your correspondent, Mr J Davies (The GEM, May 7).

He accuses Marco of obtaining too much coverage in the local media and says that other Island traders are losing out and that they too "deserve the same exposure".

The reality is as follows: Marco works very hard to promote his business and takes every opportunity to obtain publicity. This benefits not just himself, but other Island traders.

He was fortunate to be featured prominently in a successful TV series, but so were other traders. This brought media coverage worth hundreds of thousands of pounds to all of the Island. But you can't depend on this lasting. It will eventually be history and new initiatives will be required to keep Barry Island in people's minds and persuade them to continue to visit.

As for concerns of the other traders. I doubt that the owners of the recently-opened Bay5 coffee house, which has transformed what was becoming a bit of an eyesore into a very attractive venue, or a company like Cadwaladers would open a coffee parlour within 50 yards of Marco's, if they were concerned with the publicity efforts of Marco, who is also a very active member of the Island Traders Association.

Mr Davies is worried that more and more tables are being set out by Marco. This is because he is successful in attracting more customers. Would the letter writer prefer to see rows of empty shuttered shops and a derelict fairground?

Would Mr Danter invest millions of pounds in the Island if he didn't believe it was already a success and had even greater potential for the future?

Don Evans, Barry.

Green Party thanks voters

AS the Vale Green Party candidate, please allow me to express my thanks to all the people who voted for me last Thursday.

My campaign was severely hampered by the fact that I had to go into hospital at the end of March and was effectively out of action for four weeks thereafter.

Nevertheless, the Green Party doubled its vote and during the course of the campaign, it was evident that environmental issues in the Vale were of concern to lots of people throughout the county.

The campaign strengthened the support for the Green Party in the Vale and it is the party's intention to build on that support.

We plan to establish an active Vale Green Party group which will campaign to promote, for instance, clean energy developments in the Vale – and to promote the Green message that the future well-being of the area depends upon radical changes to the way we approach economics, politics, and social welfare.

Thank you again to the voters who supported the Green Party. We look forward to your continuing support in the future and to that support growing, as more people recognize the need for urgent action to avoid the worst excesses of global warming.

Alan Armstrong, Penarth.

LOCAL VOLUNTEERS HIT THE BEACHES TO CLEAN UP LITTER

MORE than 150 volunteers from Peny y Bont Surf and Life Saving Club and local McDonald's restaurants joined a clean-up event in the Vale, as part of Keep Wales Tidy's Clean Coast Week.

They cleared unwanted litter from the beach at Ogmore-by-Sea in the third annual Clean Coast Week, sponsored by McDonald's Restaurants Ltd, which coincided with Clean Europe Week.

At the event, which is one of over 100 that took place in Wales as part of Clean Coast Week, 50 bags of litter were collected from the popular beach at Ogmore-by-Sea.

Group for older dancers perform

DYFFRYN GARDENS at St Nicholas in the Vale will host Striking Attitudes, a professional dance theatre group based in Cardiff, on May 23.

The group create performance and opportunities for older dancers, both professional and community and will be performing tableau-style choreography inspired by the house, gardens and history of Dyffryn.

This performance is part of the Gwanwyn festival, a month-long festival held across Wales every May to celebrate creativity in older age. Gwanwyn Festival is supported by Arts Council of Wales and Welsh Government.

Caroline Lamb, choreographer and artistic director of Striking Attitudes says: "It's fantastic for us to be a part of the Gwanwyn festival and have the opportunity to perform in the atmospheric surroundings of Dyffryn House."

Striking Attitudes will be performing in Dyffryn House on May 23 between 12pm and 3.30pm. This is a free performance, but normal admission prices apply.

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For those who don't enjoy the, all-too-common, pitter-patter of raindrops, the Livin Roof also improves sound insulation compared to polycarbonate and glass.

The inside of the roof is a plaster-boarded to keep an airy and modern 'vaulted ceiling' feel, meaning it can be finished with down-lighters or pendant lights. With the option to add glazed panels to the Livin Roof, it's even possible to keep a view of the heavens!

GEM READERS' LETTERS EXTRA

'The GEM fair and unbiased'

WITH reference to the letter last week headed 'GEM showed bias with right to reply', I can't understand what Ms Belinda Robertson is moaning about.

I have read The GEM since it became available and have always found it fair and unbiased, with the right to reply available, as it should be.

If a political party chooses to buy additional advertising space, there is nothing to stop any other party – or person – from doing the same.

I'm sure that The GEM would welcome the extra revenue.

Bob Clarke, Boverton

PRAISE FOR NHS STAFF

OUR Welsh NHS, doctors and nurses don't always receive the recognition that they deserve: my mother has been a patient in Llandough Hospital for the past five weeks and I can't praise the staff enough for their hard work, patience and dedication.

To all the staff, whether nursing, physios or auxiliaries, nothing has been too much trouble and it's all done with a smile on their faces. So thank you to all the staff on Ward E4.

Marlene Simmonds,
Llantwit Major.

Living with ME

"When my ME was at its worst, I couldn't eat, I couldn't move, I couldn't go out. Even washing my hair was tiring."

This is what one woman living with the chronic, disabling condition Myalgic Encephalomyelitis (ME) told us about her experience for May's ME Awareness Month.

On top of symptoms including pain, cognitive difficulties and post-exertional malaise – the body's inability to recover after expending even small amounts of energy – people with ME often face a lack of understanding about the condition from those around them.

How does it feel to live with this every day? You can find out at www.actionforme.org.uk/get-the-facts.

Sonya Chowdhury,
Chief Executive, Action for ME, 42 Temple Street, Keynsham BS31 1EH Telephone: 0117 937 6620

Soroptimists aid Pakistan village

MEMBERS of Soroptimist International Bridgend – in conjunction with the charity 'Connect', have provided fresh, clean water for the villagers of Urs Mohamad Khaskeli in Pakistan, by converting an expensive diesel-powered plant to a sustainable solar plant facility.

The new plant has been commissioned and is now up and running. A plaque has been erected identifying SI Bridgend as making this vital life enhancing system possible.

Eileen Bayley,
SI Bridgend.

Local volunteer information days

THE Bridgend Association of Voluntary Organisations (Cymdeithas Mudiadau Gwirfoddol Sir Penybont) will hold volunteer information days – to celebrate Volunteers Week – as follows:

June 1 from 9.30am–3pm, Bridgend Market (five tables available); June 3 from 9am–3pm, Bridgend Bus Station (three tables available); June 4 from 10am–3pm, Maesteg Market (Square) (12 Marquees, tables and chairs will be available); June 5 from 9.30 am–3pm, Bridgend Market (five tables available).

Pupils 'Show racism the red card'!

THESE pictures were taken when the 'Show Racism the Red Card' charity held its ninth annual arts competition where talented pupils from Ysgol Gymraeg Bro Ogwr in Brackla won runners-up prizes in two categories.

An inspirational design by Kelyn Wells narrowly missed out on top spot in the poster category, while a poem written by her Year-4 classmates Iolo John, Elen Grufydd, Hanna Marshall, Rhydian Greenhall and Osian Francis also took second prize in the poetry category.

Former Welsh international Colin Charvis (left) was on hand as certificates were presented.

Business Forum Awards launched in Bridgend

THE third annual Bridgend Business Forum Awards 2015 were recently launched at the Coed-y-Mwstwr Hotel, Coychurch, Bridgend by BBC TV presenter Sian Lloyd.

About 100 businesses attended the event to find out how submitting an application for these awards could benefit their business. Enterprises across Bridgend county borough have until July 1 to apply for the following awards:

Business Student of the Year, Start-up Business of the Year, Service Business of the Year, Manufacturing Business of the Year, Entrepreneur of the Year, Social Enterprise of the Year, Bridgend Tourism Business of the Year, Creative Industries Award, and Innovative Business of the Year.

Bridgend Business of the Year 2015 will be chosen from among the winners of each category.

Alison Hoy, Chair of Bridgend Business Forum, said: "It's hard to believe it's been a year since we launched our last business forum awards! Last year's sell-out ceremony, which was our biggest to date, hosted 240 delegates and showcased so many excellent local businesses.

"These awards really do seek out the 'shining stars' within our local business community, including individuals and enterprises which have had such a positive influence on the local economy. This year, we are delighted to welcome Bridgend College on board as the main sponsor of the 2015 Bridgend Business Forum Awards."

Simon Pirotte, Principal and CEO at Bridgend College said: "Bridgend College and Engage Training, the commercial arm of the college is delighted to support the 2015 Bridgend Business Forum Awards and indeed businesses across Bridgend County Borough.

"Through close collaboration with local businesses, we believe that we can play a part in helping to boost the local and national economy – by providing the right courses, to the right learners, in the right place.

"There are a great number of challenges ahead for us as a sector and we are adamant in developing a college that is innovative and commercially-focused, while still putting the need of the local community at the heart of everything we do."

BCBC Leader Mel Nott added: "We are all aware that these are still very challenging times to run a business, let alone make it a success. I'm proud that the council can play its part, by supporting the Bridgend Business Forum Awards to provide the platform to showcase these talented individuals and enterprises."

Further details at: www.bridgendbusinessforum.co.uk or you can email: business@bridgend.gov.uk.

Headteacher in line for award

HELEN RIDOUT, headteacher at Ysgol Bryn Castell has been shortlisted for an award and will now go on to represent the region at a national final in Cardiff.

She was nominated for keeping the school motto 'Together we can achieve' at the heart of everything she does as headteacher. She is described as leading the school from special measures by maintaining a positive manner with pupils and staff'

Kelly Storer, regional sales manager for New Directions Education, said: "It was a pleasure to read all of the shortlisted nominations, and when you read about the progress an individual has made with their school, it really does inspire you."

The Inspirational Teaching Awards were set up to honour staff within the education sector who go above and beyond for their community. In 2014 the ceremony was attended by over 250 delegates, and hosted by Phil Steele, broadcaster and former school teacher.

Speaking about the shortlisting process, Gary Williams, director of business development for New Directions, said: "In 2014, we had a standard of entries that I would have thought impossible to improve upon. I am happy to be wrong.

"Colleagues, parents and pupils from across the country have come together to talk about, and celebrate exceptional staff from within their schools and colleges."

The awards had in excess of 150 nominations from primary, secondary, additional learning needs and further education establishments from all over the country.

This year's event will take place on June 19 at the Cardiff Mercure Holland House Hotel, hosted by broadcaster, comedian and one-time teacher at Barry Comprehensive School – Chris Corcoran.

The shortlist also includes ancillary staff member Susan Esseen, Evenlode Primary School, Penarth.

New strategy will tackle challenge of rising dementia

WITH the number of people in Bridgend county borough with dementia predicted to rise to over 3,000 by the year 2020, a new strategy has been created so that sufferers can receive the respect, help and support they need to enjoy a better quality of life.

Cabinet members from Bridgend County Borough Council have given the go ahead for a consultation to be carried out on a draft 'Dementia Strategy 2015 – 2018', which has been prepared by the local authority together with colleagues from the ABMU Health Board.

Service users, their families and carers, as well as other stakeholders, will all be asked for their views on the draft strategy which analyses the current provision, looks at the local and national challenges, and highlights key priorities for work to be undertaken over the next three years.

The news comes ahead of this year's Dementia Awareness Week – a national campaign which aims to spread the word that life doesn't end when dementia begins.

Coun Lyn Morgan, BCBC's cabinet member for wellbeing, said: "In 2001, there were 1,461 people in Bridgend county borough who had been diagnosed with dementia, but that figure is expected to have doubled within the next five years. Also, recent research has found that the projected number of people with dementia here is greater than in many other local authorities elsewhere in Wales, so we do face some specific challenges.

"It is our aim for this draft strategy to help enable a better quality of life for those people living with dementia, at whatever stage of their condition. People who need support and treatment should receive it at the right time, at the right place and from the right person. We want to make a positive difference for local people living with dementia, and for those who care for them."

Dementia describes the symptoms that occur when the brain is affected by certain diseases or conditions. The impact of dementia is significant, and there over 100 different types of dementia, although some are far more common than others.

All types of dementia are progressive, which means that the person's ability to remember, understand, communicate and reason gradually declines over time. However, many people with dementia can lead active and fulfilling lives for many years.

"An early diagnosis is essential and this is one of the key priorities in the strategy. Improved training for those delivering care is also important, as is research."

Contact www.alzheimers.org.uk.

APPLICATION DEADLINE: 5:00PM 20 May 2015

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homes4u HOTLINE 01446 709840

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HOMES4U@valeofglamorgan.gov.uk
or apply in writing to:
Vale of Glamorgan Council
Visible Services and Housing
Civic Offices Holton Road, Barry CF63 4RU or
Newydd Housing Association
121 Broad Street, Barry CF62 7AL

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H4U Reference 214649
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- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Gardens

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PHILIPPA FREETH COURT, BARRY

H4U Reference 114203
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- Ground floor
- Gas central heating
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- Gardens/parking

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H4U Reference 114186
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- Double-glazing
- Gardens/parking

Access to property via external steps

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- Enclosed rear gardens

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TREHARNE ROAD, BARRY

H4U Reference 226202
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- Three-bedroom house
- Central heating
- Double-glazing
- Water meter
- Gardens

Rent £90.37 per week

TUSCAN CLOSE, LLANDOUGH

H4U Reference 113986
Suitable for a family meeting the maximum occupancy requirement
- Two-bedroom flat
- Ground floor
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- Double-glazing

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TY FFYNNON, BARRY

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LLANTWIT MAJOR - £175,000

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LLANTWIT MAJOR £189,950

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LLANTWIT MAJOR £187,500

Modern three bedroom detached house situated in a cul de sac comprising Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, Sitting Room, Modern fitted Kitchen, Family Bathroom. Gas central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Paved driveway and garden to front and rear. £187,500 Ref 819D

LLANTWIT MAJOR £177,500

Modern Georgian style three bedroom mid terrace house with garage and conservatory to the rear comprising Hallway, Lounge, Dining Room, fitted Kitchen, family Bathroom. Gas fired central heating. UPVC double glazed windows and doors. Gardens to front with uninterrupted views overlooking the heritage coastline. Enclosed rear garden. Freehold Ref 820D

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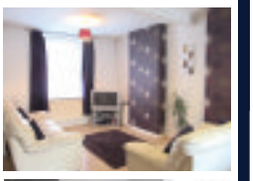

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- Would make an ideal investment property
- Offered freehold

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Darts league celebrates its 50th anniversary

THANK YOU very much to Councillor Michael Mason, Mayor of Llantwit Major Town Council, and Councillor Gwyn John for helping us to celebrate the recent 50th anniversary of the Llantwit Major & District Darts League.

They both passed on their thanks to the league and thoroughly enjoyed the atmosphere in the room during their time with us.

The committee would like to thank Justin Giosanu for cooking very enjoyable chicken and chips that went down a treat with the members present. Thanks very much to the hospitality of the Rugby Club on our many function nights; notably Matthew Mazzitelli who always does his very best in support of the LMDDL.

Thank you to everybody who supported the Cure Kayti appeal which raised a fantastic £310 over the four semi-final and final nights and presentation night.

Special thanks to Julie Cheal and Gaynor Dale for selling the raffle tickets at the presentation night and to Jean and Sheryn who expertly organise and manage our singles tournaments.

The LMDDL would also like to thanks all the players that have graced the league over the last 50 years; thanks for the memories.

Congratulations to the members and teams detailed below who won the 10 competitions that are competed for in the LMDDL.

Ladies singles: Tanya Daw, pairs: Tanya Daw and Donna Lisa Ward, threes: Chick, Jean and Beth, mixed pairs: Allan Morgan and mum to be Becky Evans.

Gents singles: Iain Austin, pairs: Steve Davie and Dai Sawyer, threes: Ritchie Sinclair, John Price, Seb Harris (Steve Davie), Alec McGaw.

Golden Cups, Sir Cennydd - Rugby Club 'A2', Eddie Meredith - Wenvoe Arms, Champion of Champions - Rugby Club 'A2'.

Final 'A' league table: Rugby Club 'A2' 190, Wenvoe Arms 169, Kings Head 'A1' 161, Golden Cups 159, Shoes Peterston 155, Fox & Hounds 141, Blacksmith Arms 130, Rugby Club 'A1' 125, Four Bells 117, Lamb & Flag 115, Tudor Jay 92, Golf Club 85, Kings Head 'A2' 77.

Final 'C' league table: Lamb & Flag 'C1' 220, Lamb & Flag 'C2' 192, Kings Head 'C1' 167, Shoes St Athan 166, Golf Club 'C1' 162, Golf Club 'C2' 158,

Kings Head 'C2' 116, Rugby Club Lions 51.

DMC

Llantwit Major & District darts league celebrated their 50th anniversary recently.

Lower Machen hosts last fixture of the season

THE South Wales and Monmouthshire point-to-point season comes to an end with the Gelligaer Farmers fixture at the popular Lower Machen racecourse on Saturday.

Racing gets under way with the members' race at 2pm and of the 11 entries the Marc Barber-trained Gallaflynn, who is usually at his best at the time of the year, seems best.

Barber has also entered Dash For Cash while Paul Webb's Super Villan is another to note.

There are 19 entries for the confined and these include the Amber Griffiths trained Harpsy Cord, the first of John Mathias' super six wins at the Banwen Miners meeting on May Day Bank Holiday Monday.

The danger to Harpsy Cord could come from the Michael Bowen trained Mister Bricolage who has been in good form this season.

Heavenstown, who only got as far as the 11th fence when contesting a three horse members' race here a fortnight ago, should also be considered.

The mixed open race has attracted 18 entries and these include the prolific Rosies Peacock, Sir Du Bearn, Full Trottle and Cock If The Rock.

EVAN'S LUDLOW WINNER

Llancarfan's Evan Williams, who is the leading trainer at Ludlow Racecourse, saddled another winner at the Welsh borders racecourse on Sunday when his eight-year-old Bullet Street, partnered by Paul Moloney, landed the My Totepool.Com Handicap Chase.

Bullet Street, a 11-2 chance, shot home nearly four lengths ahead of My Brother Sylvest who at one time was trained by Pyle's David Brace.

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Josh signs for Ipswich

BRIDGEND'S Josh Yorwerth has signed for Ipswich Town after being released from Cardiff City.

The Wales under-21 defender has successfully completed a trial with the east Anglian club, and could find himself playing in the Premier League next season if Mick McCarthy's team manage to negotiate the play-offs, with their second leg against Norwich to be played on Saturday before the play-off final at Wembley on May 25.

Josh (20) was on target for Wales' under-21s in their win over Bulgaria in March.

GARETH JAMIESON

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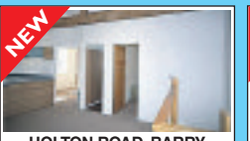
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NEW PRICE
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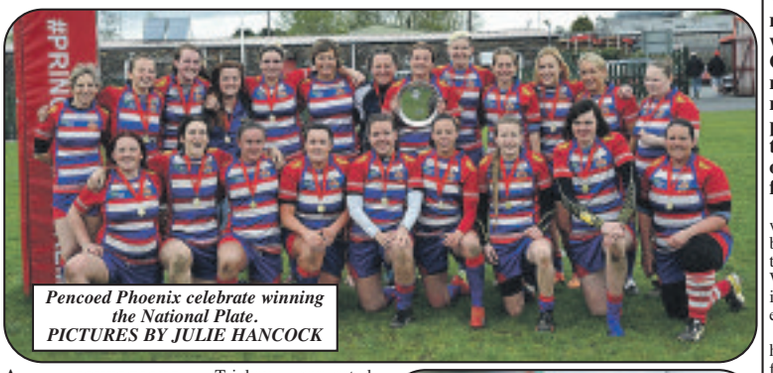
Phoenix land National Plate!



Pencoed Phoenix celebrate winning the National Plate. PICTURES BY JULIE HANCOCK

A courageous defensive effort from Pencoed Phoenix laid the foundation for their first National Plate Final victory at Llandovery, defeating Seven Sisters ladies 26-19.

The big Seven Sisters pack dominated possession and territory for most of the opening quarter deep in the Phoenix 22, only last ditch tackles keeping them out, Kathryn Stonehouse and Jade Mullen pulling off try saving tackles without fear metres from their own line to typify the Phoenix effort.

After soaking up pressure Phoenix speedster Leanne Burnell sprinted away and only a desperate covering ankle tap from Seven outside half Rachel Rees saved a certain score. The match was beginning to develop a pattern with the Seven Sisters side playing through their big pack and Phoenix countering when gaining any possession.

Phoenix, after again absorbing their opponents' pressure, then struck with devastating effect, combining down the right through Rhianydd Morgan, Stephanie Edmunds, Katie Murphy, and Melissa Clay for Morgan to reappear in the move and race over to complete the 80 metre move. Sam Trickey converted and Phoenix led 7-0 somewhat against the run of play.

Their counter-attacking game was to again bring about their second try, with Burnell doing well to offload out of the tackle to Morgan, who raced away from 40 metres to score wide out.

Phoenix full back Mullen then pulled off a superb cover tackle on the Seven Sisters right wing to halt a dangerous attack before Phoenix got their third try, scrum half Trickey catching the Seven Sisters' defence flat with a long kick to use the pace of her left wing Burnell, who controlled the bouncing ball well to score at the posts.

Trickey converted and Phoenix led 19-0 at the interval, the scoreline not reflective of the Seven Sisters contribution to the half.

A yellow card for Phoenix early in the second half compounded their problems up front against their big opponents who soon capitalised, Welsh international prop forward Beth Howells crashing over at the posts, which Rees converted.

Seven soon got a second, their pack driving over wide out and the alarm bells were ringing for Phoenix at 19-12. The Dulais Valley side were now dominating possession and it was not long before they levelled matters, Rees weaving her way over from 20 metres before bringing the scores level at 19-19 with the conversion.

The Phoenix support was now fearing the worst, however their fears turned to joy from the restart! Welsh international Clay, still full of running at this stage, hunted down the kick out to pressure the Seven defence into a mistake before somehow collecting the wicked bouncing ball to score a dramatic late try to the delight of her team mates and supporters.

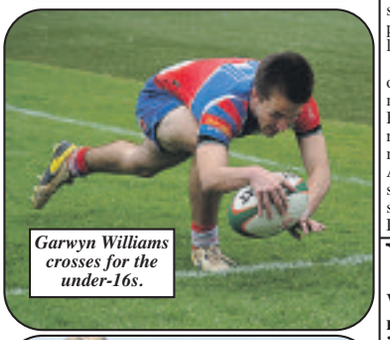
Trickey landed a superb touchline conversion which must have dealt a hammer blow to her opponents deep in injury time and Phoenix replacement Lauren Atkins finally got hold of the ball to kick dead and secure victory.

In this totally committed all round performance against the experienced Seven Sisters side, none did better for Phoenix than Clay, Morgan, and No8 Amy Stevens, who gave a typically combative display against her much bigger opponents.

This victory for Phoenix was the icing on the cake in what has been a satisfactory first season in the National Premiership.

It is anticipated, following the close season rest, that Phoenix will look to enlarge their squad for the new season ahead; if you are interested in joining the team please contact team manager Michele Halse at the clubhouse on 01656 860152.

Lowri Reeves pictured with women's national coach Caroline Spanton.



Garwyn Williams crosses for the under-16s.

Dan Watkins leaps in the lineout.

Pencoed youth held their annual presentation evening at the clubhouse with the following award recipients:

Player of the year - Dan Watkins; most improved player - Lewis Hughes; most promising player - Dan Watts; clubman of the year - Chris Cooper; players' player of the year - Dan Watkins; past captain - Jack Picton; captain for 2015/16 season - Liam Parrish.

Pencoed under-16s went down to a narrow 22-20 defeat in the Ospreys under-16 cup final at Llandarcy, well done to all concerned in reaching the final.

TR

Surf club turn on the style at championships

PORTHCAWL-BASED Welsh Coast Surf Club returned from last weekend's National Championships with three new title-holders among its ranks, after epic performances from all of the club's surfers in some of the best waves ever seen for the competition.

Held over the Mayday weekend in the Pembrokeshire beach of Freshwater West, the three-day event was a chance for Wales's finest to take to the water in the most prestigious surfing event held in the country.

By the time the sun set on bank holiday Monday, the club's former chairman Tom Anderson, junior Joe Morris and longboarder Hazel Illet were all heading home as national champions.

Anderson claimed the senior category in what was his first ever Welsh title, while Illet mounted a successful defence of her own ladies longboard title. Joe Morris not only became under-14s champion, but also managed to make the final of the under-16s - no doubt signs of a bright future.

Throughout the event conditions were often as good as memory can recall at Fresh West, and this only added to the performance levels the surfers were able to put on.

Beginning the weekend, in clean, well lined up swell, junior longboarder Tom Horn put on a stylish display which saw him placing fourth in the under-18 longboard at the age of only 13!

As waves got bigger several other Welsh Coast Surf Club members began to flare up. Brad Hockridge dominated the early rounds of the masters despite a massive rip-current and Tom Anderson securing one of the scores of the Sunday in the seniors' semi-final, eliminating Llantwit Major's number one seed and multiple Welsh champ Mark Vaughan in the process.

Meanwhile another younger member of the club team, Joe Morris, was laying down a warning to his competitors across several categories with an almost flawless display of carving and lip-bashing in some challenging surf.

Other notable performances came from Rob Blythe and Ian Bowen, who were both unlucky not to progress and earn finals berths.

After a few days of cold and rain, Monday finally began with blue skies and huge, clean waves. Finals day, as Mayday is traditionally known in Welsh surfing, was looking good - and WCSC's surfers did not disappoint either.

Firstly came the young Morris, who's dominance of junior surfing is surely only just around the corner, with him picking up a first and a fourth in two age categories. Logan Nicol meanwhile deserves credit for making the under-18 final.

Next up came the ladies longboard, in which three WCSC girls took to enormous low-tide closeouts in one of the heats of the weekend.

Breige Lawrence drew gasps from spectators as she dropped into a heavy lefthander only to snap out her leash-plug and have to swim in, as WCSC lifeguard Steve Horn attempted to paddle a backup board out to her.

Meanwhile Angarad John did some stylish board-walking while Hazel Illet locked into her own backhand bomb to emerge the winner, with Lawrence and John making it a 1-2-3 for the club!

Back in the shortboard categories, more success was to come for WCSC, as former chairman Tom Anderson followed up his strong semi-finals performance with a couple more solid scores in the seniors final to take home a Welsh title for the first time after 20 years of competing.

Chris Seage's stylish approach to the huge left-handers was enough for second place and another 1-2 for WCSC.

A day of spectacular surfing and big results was mad even sweeter for the Porthcawl contingent when Brad Hockridge, returning to competition after a few years' break, took to the water for two back-to-back finals, placing third in the masters and fourth in the kahunas.

Former champion Greg Owen also represented the club with a strong performance in the masters, placing fourth behind Hockridge after a close and enthralling duel.

WCSC's success was then compounded with confirmation of a runner-up placing in the overall club rankings, just a few points short of Llantwit Major's Channel Coast Surf Club.

Welsh Coast Club chairman Matthew Hapgood was on hand to congratulate all who had played a part in this, and to wish the club onwards and upwards for the upcoming summer season - and indeed next year's event where local surfers will again be hoping to build on these outstanding results.

WCSC successes at 2015 Welsh Nationals: Tom Anderson - Seniors Champion; Joe Morris - U14 Champion; Hazel Illet - Ladies Longboard Champion; Chris Seage - Seniors Runner-up; Breige Lawrence - Ladies Longboard Runner-up; Angharad John - 3rd place, Ladies Longboard; Logan Nichol - 4th Place, U18; Tom Horn - 4th Place, U18 Longboard; Brad Hockeridge - 3rd Place, Masters and 4th Place, Kahunas; Greg Owen - 4th Place, Masters; WCSC placed second overall in national club rankings.

For more on the Welsh Coast Surf Club visit the club's Facebook page or their website, www.welshcoastsurfclub.co.uk

MH

VIFC's gr-eight performance!

WHAT a way to round off an incredible season.

One year ago VI lost out to Rhoose in the league and cup - well, 12 months later and VIFC have won the lot this season and finished the season off with a resounding 8-0 derby day victory.

The treble winners turned on the style to rout Rovers with goals from Jordan Mortimore, Leigh Lewis, Aaron Rogers, Rob West, Nicky Cox, Sean Flynn and a stunner from Richie Humphreys.

Although it took VI a while to settle, Rovers looked the better side for the opening 20 minutes as VI seemed to go through the motions, while Rhoose needed the points to ensure third place. But then VI woke up.

Mortimore and Goodwin saw efforts well saved after both combined with Lewis as VI built momentum. Then came the breakthrough on the half hour. Reece Lewis drilled a low through ball for Mortimore to latch on to, the skipper calmly slipping the ball under the advancing keeper to open the scoring, Mortimore notching his 64th goal in 34 games, a fantastic season for the VI captain and talisman.

VIFC were now at races and playing some neat football. They doubled their lead just before the break when Goodwin crossed for Leigh Lewis to fire the ball in at the far post.

Halftime saw the return of Sean Flynn to the team, and he didn't waste any time picking up where he left off. Flynn picked up the ball on the right and drove into the box, he pulled the ball back for Rogers to sidefoot home.

Humphreys was now up front and he was getting himself into the right positions but saw a couple of efforts well saved or ruled to be offside, much to his frustration.

After one such chance, VI had a corner, and a shove from a Rovers defender saw a penalty awarded. In a show of great team spirt the players waved forward the only player on the pitch not to have scored this season, keeper Rob West.

West was between the sticks after injury ruled out regular number one Paul Lucas. West, always ready to step in when needed, expertly dispatched the spot kick.

VI were full of confidence now and the football was free-flowing. Reece Lewis' switch from left to right saw Flynn burst into the box, round the keeper and be brought down for another penalty.

Flynn took the spot kick but saw it well saved, however he managed to beat Humphreys to the rebound to make it five.

It wasn't long before yet another penalty award. Some fine exchanges of passing played in Rogers and he twisted and turned in the area and was brought down by a last-ditch tackle. Now Barry Cup final hero Nicky Cox stepped up from the back and drilled home from 12 yards.

Tony Charles then picked up the ball after a one-two and he played in Flynn who rounded the keeper to fire home, and VI were in seven heaven.

They say save the best until last and VI certainly did that with the final goal. Dean Cleave picked up the ball on the right and crossed toward Richie Humphreys. The defender come striker connected with a sweet volley that flew like a missile into the top corner. It was conceded that Humphreys need not be concerned about scoring again, as he'll never score one better than that - quite the goal!

Team: R.West, S.Thomas, D.Garrison, R.Lewis. L.Lewis, D.Cleave, C.Goodwin, J.Laing, R.Humphreys, A.Rogers. Substitutes: N.Cox, S.Flynn, T.Charles.

A history making season for VIFC - a treble won, the league title, supporters' cup and Barry cup. A wonderful achievement the players can be very proud of, but this is just the beginning.

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Our border terrier has been missing on Newton Dunes since Monday evening. If you have seen him or have any information please call 01656 788281.

GENEROUS REWARD

Family Notices

MANNING
(Formerly Taylor) Audrey June

Suddenly after a short illness at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff on May 10. Audrey, dearly beloved wife of the late Fred, much loved mum of Lesley, Linda and Sandra, loving mother-in-law of Rob, Steve and Dave. Adored nan of Alison, Graham, Rachel, Nicola, Jason, Sadie and Michael and devoted nan to all her great-grandchildren.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Glastone Road, Barry until her funeral service in the chapel on Friday, May 22 at 11.30am, followed by interment at Barry Cemetery at 12.30pm.

Flowers may be sent to the Funeral Home.

SCOTT
Harry

Peacefully on May 5 at Llandough Hospital. Harry (aged 89), beloved husband of the late Mary and also treasured partner of Grace. Loving father to Peter, Stuart, Kevin, Janet, Heather and their partners Kearen, Pam, Ksenja, Dave and John. Much loved and adored grandfather and great grandfather.

"HE HAS CLIMBED HIS LAST LADDER"

Resting in the private chapel of The Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at All Saints Church, Barry on Friday, May 22 at 1.30pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry.

Immediate family flowers only please, donations if desired may be made at the service to The Better Life Appeal @ Llandough Hospital in memory of Harry. Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Service, 01446 407962.

BEVAN
Clarice

On Thursday May 7, in her 101st year and resolute in her Faith, Clarice L. Bevan, late of Bryn Road, Tondu. Widow of the late and much loved Jim, beloved mother of James and his partner, Daphne, dearest "Paw Paw Jim" to Stella, Leslie, Harold, Jenny and Phillip.

Funeral at Coychurch Crematorium on Monday, May 18 at 2.45pm. Family flowers only but donations welcomed to Albert Edward, Prince of Wales Court, Penylan Avenue, Porthcawl, CF36 3LY, where Clarice received such abundant love and care in her closing years. (Cheques payable to "RMBI" should be sent to the Matron, Mrs. Alyson Owen-Neill). **Da was, da a ffyddlon**.

YANDALL
Edwin (Ted)

Peacefully after a long illness at Llandough Hospital, Penarth on May 7. Ted, former employee of Western Welsh bus company, dearly beloved husband of Margaret, much loved dad of Alison and Stephen, adored granddad of Grace and Edward.

***Ted will be sadly missed by all his loving family and friends*.**

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son, Tynewydd Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until his funeral service in the chapel on Friday, May 22 at 3pm, followed by cremation at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry at 4pm. Family cut flowers only but donations in lieu of flowers to Marie Curie Cancer Care, Holme Tower, Bridgeman Road, Penarth, CF64 3YR.

REES Ian

21 June 1976 - 18 May 2010

Five years since we said goodbye as you gifted sight and life to others, we are all very proud of this, a husband, father, son, uncle and best 'bruver' in the world.

Primus Inter Pares

The family of the late
Teresa (Teri) Ann Jones
would like to thank all who gave so generously to Marie Curie Hospice Holme Towers on her behalf.
The sum raised was £1,748.17, which is a wonderful tribute to a lovely lady.

CLEMO
Audrey Winifred
(NÉE DONEGAN)

Sailed away peacefully on May 7, 2015 on her 86th birthday at Holme Towers, Penarth. Beloved wife to the late William (Bill), much loved mother and mother-in-law to Lesley and Keith, Ian and Sarah and Boof and Jo. A wonderful Nana Og to Sophie, Bethan, Louis and Freya and adored sister to Maureen (Mo).

Audrey will also be greatly missed by all her extended family, including a great many nephews and nieces, and all her very good friends, especially those who have been so good to her during her last few months - your kindness will not be forgotten.

Also, the family would like to extend their grateful thanks to Ward A7 UHW, and most importantly Holme Towers, who cared for her in her final weeks with such care and compassion.

Resting at A.G. Adams & Son Funeral Home, Gladstone Road, Barry until the funeral on Thursday May 21. Service in the chapel at 12 noon, afterwards cremation at Barry Crematorium. Family flowers only, if desired donations may be handed to the funeral director after the funeral for Holme Tower, Bridgeman Road, Penarth.

JONES
Richard

After a short illness on May 1, Richard of Llantwit Major. Dearly loved brother of Jane and uncle of Anna and Emma and her husband Kevin. He was a great-uncle to Owen and Rhys and will be sadly missed.

Resting at W.A. Brown & Son, College Street, Llantwit Major until the service in Coychurch Crematorium on Monday, May 18 at 11am. Family flowers only but donations may be made to Greyhound Rescue Wales c/o the Funeral Home. No black to be worn by request.

ANDERSON
Luke Jacob (AKA 3D1)

Suddenly on May 3, Luke aged 21 years of Llantwit Major. Cherished son of Kev and Deb, loving brother to Zoe and her partner Ben, adored uncle to Logan, Keeley and Bump. A devoted and deeply loved partner to Charlie and a much loved grandson to Ros and Pete Taylor.

Luke will be greatly missed by everyone that knew him.

Funeral service on Thursday, May 21 at Coychurch Crematorium at 11am (where all please meet). Immediate family flowers only please, all enquiries and donations for either Breast Cancer or British Heart Foundation may be forwarded to the funeral director, W.A. Brown & Son, Pembroke House, College Street, Llantwit Major CF61 1SG.

Please wear what you feel comfortable in.

NICHOLLS
John (Nick)

Suddenly but peacefully on May 11 at Llandough Hospital, with his devoted family at his bedside. Nick, aged 83, well known for his time as a builder and haulage contractor. A loving dad, grampy and great grampy who will be greatly missed.

Resting at the Vale Funeral Service, 181 Court Road, Barry until his service at Cardiff & Glamorgan Crematorium, Barry on Monday, May 18 at 10am. Flowers may be sent to the funeral home or if desired donations may be made at the service to Velindre Hospital in memory of Nick.

Further enquiries to Lyndsay Ellis @ The Vale Funeral Services, 01446 407962.

GINGELL
Roger Mervyn

Suddenly passed away Tuesday, May 5. Roger, aged 64, was a wonderful husband to Gillian, loving father to Michael, Matthew and Thomas. Devoted brother, caring uncle and will be very sadly missed by all.

The funeral will be held on Tuesday, May 19 at 2.15pm at Coychurch Crematorium. Family flowers only at the funeral, however if desired donations can be made to Diabetes UK.

Explore The GEM online
barry-today.co.uk
cowbridge-today.co.uk
llantwit-major-today.co.uk
porthcawl-today.co.uk
bridgend-today.co.uk

Mascotte takes the top prize!

Celebrating success as Mascotte lands the trophy (and Burgee!)

ON Saturday morning, four Cutters locked out of the dock joining two other boats in the outer harbour to race from Barry to a buoy near Lundy Island.

The forecast was for light winds, but as the Pilot Cutters hoisted their sails the true force of the wind was experienced, as a near gale from the south west had raised a big sea with breaking waves.

The start at 10am proved to be exciting with Mascotte, the largest Pilot Cutter at 60 foot, first over the line, closely followed by Olga, Peggy, Jan Roelan and Dolphin. Marguerite, who sustained some damage, retired before crossing the line.

As the day progressed, The Peggy, Jan Roelan and Olga retired from the race with several crew members suffering from the heavy seas which on occasions swept right across the decks.

Mascotte carried the ebb tide as far as Ilfracombe as the wind had eased she anchored for several hours until, with a fresh wind, she rounded the Horseshoe Buoy, the first mark, just after midnight, then sailed on to a buoy off Swansea.

In the meantime, the only other boat left in the race was the 38 foot Dolphin built in 1909. She rounded the Horseshoe buoy in the early hours of the morning well behind Mascotte.

Mascotte continued up channel passing Porthkerry around 8.30am on Sunday morning and finally to the finish off Barry Harbour. The Dolphin, unable to make up his time to beat Mascotte, retired off Swansea, her home port.

At the prizegiving, the race officers Roger Donkin and Brian Dotchon presented Mark Tyndall the owner of Mascotte with a cup first raced for in 1936 and the prized Yacht Club Burgee defaced with a Golden Cockerel. **RD**

Colcot Wanderers prosper as the first Futsal Street Cup is launched in Barry

Colcot Wanderers with the trophy.

THE Barry Elim Elevates Kick project with the Vale 5x60 team, Streetgames and Communities First, recently launched the Futsal Street Cup for local teenagers.

It worked with teenagers in St Richard Gwyn and the Vale 5x60 team to host a Futsal street team Cup which was played on April 26, and introduced Brazilian football to local teens from Communities First areas.

The event at Holm View Leisure centre provided an opportunity for teenagers to play the game in a safe environment.

Around 30 young people aged between 14 and 16 took part with teams of mixed ages, and abilities. They played the game of Futsal and some were involved in volunteering during the games.

The young people organised their own teams, gave them names and fought it out for the much coveted Street Futsal Cup trophy and winners' medals.

Elevate worked with St Richard Gwyn teenagers through schools based sport mentoring to put the day together.

This is a great opportunity for local teens to participate and organise events aimed at their peers, and learn valuable life skills along the way.

We are looking to run it as an annual competition and attract more teams from the Vale to participate. We believe sport has an incredible capacity to develop young people, beyond the benefits of participation.

The event was supported by Streetgames, through which Elevate volunteers also run Doorstep clubs that coach youngsters to pay Futsal, Ultimate Frisbee and Handball, all of which are non-contact games that help develop confidence.

After a long day, players from Colcot Wanderers beat the Barry69ers to lift the first Barry Futsal Street Cup trophy.

To find out more about Elevates' work, visit www.elevatekck.org and to find out about the doorstep clubs contact Communities First and like Vale Futsal's Facebook page.

KANTZ MISRA
Elevate Project Manager

CAMELOTS' HOPES ARE DASHED

WITH two rounds still to play there were two teams fighting for the division one title.

The Cardiff Castles had a point and a half advantage over the Barry Camelots, but almost as important the Cardiff team also had a tiebreak advantage. This meant that we needed to score two points more than the Castles in our final two games.

Round 17 took place with the Castles playing the North Cardiff Woodpushers and the Camelots taking on the Aberdare Wasps. The Wasps would hold the key to the fortunes of both teams as their final game would be at home to the Castles.

The Woodpushers have a very settled team, normally using the same five players. Until recently they had title aspirations of their own and could still mathematically be crowned as champions with a big win should the Camelots drop points. The Castles won by the narrowest of margins.

The Camelots could overtake them with a big win, and our ratings suggested a big win was possible and in the previous encounter before Christmas we took all five points on offer.

Unfortunately we could not match our earlier margin but did pick up three and a half points to drag ourselves only a point behind the Castles.

Our final game is a rearranged match against the Caerphilly Kings to be played later this month. The Castles, however, have already played their final match against the Wasps.

The Castles fared better than the Camelots did a week earlier taking the match by four and a half points to a solitary half. This gives them an unassailable lead of five and a half points with the Camelots still having one match to play and only a maximum of five pooints to play for.

The Barry Bosons also have one match to play. A win for the Bosons would guarantee them at least third place and give the Barry Club both the silver and bronze places. A good effort by both teams, just not quite good enough - still there is always next season.

The Barry Chess Club meets at 7.30pm each Monday at the West End Club. St. Nicholas Road, Barry CF62 6QY. The club is open to players of all standards; whether you are interested in playing competitive chess or just the occasional friendly games.

New players are very welcome to just turn up on the night but if you contact one of the club members through the website we can explain what is happening on the night you have in mind, and arrange for someone to greet you on your arrival.

For more details visit our website at http://barrychessclub.yolasite.com.

PHIL JONES

Romilly's revenge win over Pencoed

ON Saturday Barry Romilly first team welcomed Pencoed Bowls Club to Romilly Park in another Carruthers Shield Cup match, hoping to turn the tables on the side who beat them by one shot last year.

Following their win the previous week against Kenfig Hill Romilly were looking to improve on their performance from that game, especially on their own green.

On a breezy but sunny day which was a total transformation from the previous Saturday, Romilly began the game confidently but it was clear over the first five ends it was not going to be an easy afternoon as Pencoed matched Romilly bowl for bowl with the score level at 9-9.

The next five ends were similar to the initial five but Romilly had taken a narrow lead of three shots by the 10th end, leading 35-32.

Both sets of players were struggling to find line and length on a green renowned for being heavy and were left scratching their heads at some of the lines the woods were taking.

The game remained close but during ends 11 to 15, Romilly began to exert pressure on their opponents and went further ahead thanks mainly to the rinks of Foscolo and Cogbill who had forged clear by eight and six shots respectively, helping to put Romilly ahead by 15 shots, 56-41.

The rinks of Phillips and Wright were also playing their part, being two ahead and just one behind respectively, but both rinks played well over the last six ends to end up winning and supporting the rinks of Foscolo and Cogbill for an overall victory by 19 shots, 75-56.

Rink scores: K Mills/T Bloomfield/C Collins/F Phillips 17-13; P Gershenson/P Williams/G Trepleton/J Wright 17-15; G Eastment/R Hewitson/M Doyle/G Cogbill 19-11; J Coles/G Rees/R Jones/B Foscolo 22-17.

The next game is on Saturday at 2.30pm and is the final Carruthers Shield group game away to Rhoose where a Romilly victory will guarantee a place in the open draw. Romilly 'A' have an SVLA game at home to the Murch.

FP

Busy week for tennis club!

IT'S been a busy week for Barry's newest tennis club, Barry Community Tennis Club, based at Romilly Park.

Ladies enjoyed the launch of 'TennisTuesdays', a structured, social playing opportunity promoted by the LTA, while younger players enjoyed the ever-growing popularity of Friday night's mini and junior clubs.

Additionally, on Friday night, the club hosted the Quorn Family Tennis Cup, where 10 parent and child pairs competed in mini tennis matches for certificates and prizes, with the winning pair earning an invitation to one of this summer's grass court tournaments, where they will get a chance to play against other parent and child pairs as well as watching some of the world's best players in action.

Over the weekend, Vale Tennis Academy's Tennis in the Parks programme continued with a number of families and children taking part in the selection of sessions on offer, while there were home fixtures for the 8 and under girls team, 9 and under and 12 and under boys teams, while the 8 and under boys and 12 and under girls all travelled to away fixtures as part of the Aegon team tennis tournament.

New players are regularly being welcomed to the club and sessions will expand as demand dictates.

For more information follow the club on Facebook or Twitter, check the website, www.barryctc.co.uk, email info@barryctc.co.uk or call 07816 311263.

Barry & District league tables and results

CRIB DIVISION 1:

West End 8, Railway 7; Moors Boys 4, Rhoose Social 11; Wyndham Cons 9, Cadoxton Cons 6; West End Wanderers 7, Liberals 8.

League table: Liberals 227, Wyndham Cons 22,1, Cadoxton Cons 218, Moors Boys 210, West End Wanderers 209, Rhoose Social 207, West End 206, Railway 182.

SKITTLES DIVISION 1:

Rugby Club 6, Liberals A 1; Rhoose Social A 3, Rhoose Social C 4; Cambrian Flyers 6, West End D 1; Liberals C 5, Slammers 2; Runway Club 1, Allsorts 6; Rhoosters 5, Sea View B 2; Rhoose Social B 6, King William XII 1; West End C 5, Barries Boys 2.

League table: West End C 139.5, Sea View B 131, Allsorts 124, West End D 109, Slammers 107, King William XII 106.5, Rugby Club 102.5, Rhoose Social B 98.5, Barries Boys 97, Rhoose Social A 92, Rhoosters 88.5, Rhoose Social C 85, Cambrian Flyers 73, Liberals A 70, Liberals C 66.5, Runway Club 63.5.

SNOOKER DIVISION 1:

Wyndham Cons A 3, Penarth Cons B 2; Cadoxton Cons B 3, Harbour B 2; Rhoose Social B 0, Savoy A 5; Harbour A 5, Rhoose Social C 0; Cadoxton Cons Z 2, West End C 3.

League table: Harbour B 115, Savoy A 110, Cadoxton Cons B 88, West End C 88, Cadoxton Cons Z 79, Wyndham Cons A 67, Harbour A 64, Rhoose Social B 63, Rhoose Social C 62, Penarth Cons B 56, Wyndham Cons C 50 Savoy B 48.

SNOOKER DIVISION 2:

Market Street C 3, Cadoxton Cons A 2; Railway A 4, Market Street B 1; West End B 1, Penarth Cons D 4, Penarth Cons A 1, Services Social B 4; Railway B 2, Railway C 3; Liberators 3, Sully Sports A 2.

League table: Railway A 108, Market Street C 89, Penarth Cons D 83, Liberators 79, Market Street B 77, Railway B 77, Services Social B 75, Cadoxton Cons A 70, Penarth Cons A 66, Sully Sports A 63, *Railway C 55, West End B 53 (* = Points deducted).

All league & cup fixtures and results at www.barryleagues.co.uk or on Facebook - search for 'barry leagues'. **JW**

Bob shows age is only a number!

BUY BACK BOB, at eight the oldest horse in the Watch Racing UK On Sky 432 Novices Hurdle at Wincanton last Thursday, was another winner for Aberthin's Tim Vaughan last Thursday.

Ridden by Richard Johnson, and racing for the first time in 137 days, Buy Back Bob scored by five lengths from Proofreader and went off the 6-5 favourite in a field of six runners.

BRIAN LEE

BIG SPRING CLEAN

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09 **MERCEDES B180 Sport Diesel 2.0 CDi** In black, 76,000 miles **£8,495**
11 **FORD Fiesta 1.6 TDCi Titanium 3-Dr** In black, 27,000 miles, £20 road tax **£7,995**
58 **NISSAN Qashqai 1.6 Acentia** In met-blue, 59,000 miles, 2 owners **£7,995**
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13 **TOYOTA IQ VVTi** In burnt orange, 14,000 miles, 1 owner, low running costs **£6,995**
12 **SUZUKI Swift 1.2 SZ3 5-Dr** In met-red, 19,000 miles, 1 owner **£6,995**
12 **VAUXHALL Corsa 1.4 SE 5-Dr Automatic** in grasshopper green, 20,000 miles, 1 owner **£6,995**
59 **VW Golf 1.4S 5-Dr** In met grey, 41,000 miles, low running costs **£6,995**
59 **FORD Fiesta 1.4 Titanium 5-Dr** In hot magenta, 27,000 miles, 1 owner **£6,995**
10 **VAUXHALL Zafira 1.9 CDTi 'Design' Auto** In met grey, 68,000 miles, 7 seater **£6,795**
10 **CITROEN C3 1.6 Exclusive Auto 5-Dr** In met grey, 23,000 miles, superb example **£6,495**
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12 **TOYOTA Aygo 1.0 VVTi 'ICE' 5-Dr** In met green, 20,000 miles, 1 owner **£5,995**
12 **SKODA Fabia 1.4 SE 5-Dr** In white with a/c etc, 1 owner **£5,995**
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OUR MAN BRIAN'S POINT-TO-POINT BLAST FROM THE PAST – 1990

ON AND OFF THE TURF with Brian Lee

OUR columnist Brian Lee, who has been writing about the Welsh horse racing scene for almost half-a-century, takes another look at some of his press clippings.

A report of mine which appeared in the now sadly long defunct *The Sporting Life*, under the heading 'Banned Bowles Goes To Ireland', on June 4, 1990, read: "Warned off Welsh trainer John Bowles is leaving Crickhowell to live in Ireland. Bowles, 46, failed in an Appeal Court bid last year to clear his name for his part in a ringer scandal 10 years ago. He said: 'I am going to live in a little place called Dooleek.'

"The former amateur rider added: "I am fed up with not being able to share in my son Lee's success and not being able to take part in the sport I love."

"This season Lee Bowles has trained 11 point-to-point winners and on Saturday he received the Belstaff Point-To-Point Owners' Association Award, which he won with *The Screamin Demon*. He is also the owner trainer of Wales' leading point-to-pointer *Katesville*.

"Last season, John Bowles, who had been fined £500 for attending Cheltenham and point-to-points the previous year, defied a Jockey Club ban by attending point-to-point meetings. But this season he decided to stay away so that his son, as he put it, 'would not be hounded.'

"Bowles lost his trainers' licence in 1980 and was declared a disqualified person for 20 years after a jury found that in 1978 he had switched his 10-year-old *In The Money* with *Cobbler's March*, a winner of six races, in a selling hurdle at Newton Abbot's Bank Holiday Monday meeting.

"Bowles said he would only return home from time to time to take care of his business interests."

Bowles died in Ireland last year, but his remains were returned to Crickhowell for burial. I remember on one occasion at the Talybont Hunt Point-To-Point Steeplechases, when Bowles had been banned from attending meetings, I walked into the sponsors' tent only to find him sitting at a table drink in hand and holding court with some of the officials. Seeing me, he shouted out: "Brian, you wrote some terrible things about me in the paper."

Sadly, as a result of a race riding accident, Andrew James is wheelchair-bound but he is always in good spirits and delights in taking the mick out of me every time he sees me on the racecourse.

Under the heading "Farrier James Rides His 50th Winner" alongside a handsome head and shoulder picture of him, I informed readers of a local paper: "Abergavenny farrier Andrew James, 31, chalked-up his 50th winner when winning the Charlie Knipe Hunter Chase at Hereford races last Saturday. on Harold Morris's *Dashalong*. James, who has ridden 48 winners between-the-flags, was landing his second under Rules."

James said: "Dashalong hit the first fence very hard and made the birch fly in all directions, but he's a clever jumper and we were able to make nearly all the running."

Dashalong won by three lengths from John Edwards' *Wally Wrekin* who put in a strong challenge five fences from home. James can be forgiven if he had cause to feel some slight embarrassment in beating Mr Edwards' horse into second place. For it was James who, in his role as farrier, shod *Wally Wrekin* before the race.'

Welsh point-to-pointer *Timber Tool*, owned by Bill Evans and his wife Mary, the former Mrs Rhys Williams of Llancarfan who rode successfully in point-to-points herself, came in for some stick in *The Sporting Life Point-To-Point Annual* and it made me see red.

So under the heading 'Pot Hunting *Timber Tool*' I wrote: "In his article on the 10 best point-to-pointers of last season, Jonathan Neesom writes: "*Timber Tool* is the first winner of the Daily Telegraph Cup, the new sponsors of the trophy for the horse who wins the most point-to-points in a season. It is a fact that horses who aim for this title inevitably do their share of 'pot hunting', and *Timber Tool*, in truth, beat little in seven of his 11 wins (including a walk-over)."

I wrote: "It is grossly unfair of Mr Neesom to suggest that *Timber Tool*'s connections were, as he puts it, 'pot hunting'. *Timber Tool* took on all comers and set a record of sorts by winning every men's open race that took place during the season in the west Wales area. Furthermore, I recall Mrs Evans, wife of the owner Bill Evans, telling me that they didn't want to win the Daily Telegraph Trophy by a walk-over and that is why they made their long trip to Devon at the end of the season when the championship trophy had already been won, so to speak.

"In the event, *Timber Tool* had 11 wins (including that walk-over) to the West Country's *Gerry Doyle*'s nine wins".

To be fair to Mr Neesom, he did have some nice things to say about *Timber Tool*. For instance: "However, the manner of his racing does him credit. On nine of his 10 wins he recorded the fastest time of the meeting, blazing a trail from flag fall and defying the opposition to stay with him."

My good friend Cowbridge farmer John Llewellyn earned the wrath of officials at the Tredegar Farmers meeting and under the heading 'Stewards Summon Jockey' I wrote: "Reigning Welsh champion John Llewellyn was called before the stewards for excessive use of the whip at the Tredegar Farmers Hunt Point-To-Point after winning the men's open race on the Tredegar mare, *Miss Daffodil*. He was given a warning and the incident has been reported to the Jockey Club. *Miss Daffodil*, owned by Mark Dent, won by three quarters of a length from *Lord Charles* after the pair had raced neck and neck along the run-in."

I also reported that Tim Jones had recaptured his Welsh riders' championship title and that "he has ridden 20 winners this season, including two under rules".

Tim won the members' race on *Tudor Girl* and the maiden on *Goodbye Roscoe*. I also reported that *Answer To Prayer*, owned by Pontypridd bookmaker Tony Jeffries and ridden by the Vale's Gavin Hughes, aged 18, won the adjacent hunts' race.

Gavin was riding his first winner and it was at this meeting that Bridgend's Paul Hamer chalked-up his 97th winner when Len Harkins's *West Palm* beat sole rival *Little Herbert* in the restricted.

Tim Rooney had good cause to remember the 1990 season as "The likeable 34-year-old farrier had a fall from *Gunmetal Boy* at the Ystrad which put him out for the season. Tim, who with 17 wins behind him was on course to take John Llewellyn's Welsh record of 20 in a season. He was also challenging Philip Scholfield for the national title. Tim broke two bones in his right foot."

Under the heading 'Brilliant Evan Takes Honours', this is what I had to say about present day National Hunt trainer, Llancarfan's Evan Williams: "Nineteen-year-old Evan Williams earned the highest praise when he landed the Point-To-Point Owners' Association race on *Little Herbert* at the Gelligaer Farmers' Hunt Steeplechases. Despite losing his irons and reins when over-jumping at the last fence alongside *Musical Shadow*, Evan, from the Vale, somehow got back into the race and, in an exciting finish managed to get the former show-jumper back into the race and won by a neck. The Vale's Kevin Cousins scored a shock in the maiden when winning on 20-1 shot *Crown Royale* and John Llewellyn rode his 15th winner of the season when *Timber Tool* won the men's open.

I also reported that: "*Timber Tool* failed to make it 10 wins in a row when beaten by *Katesville* at the Llangeinor held at St Mary's Hill, near Bridgend. Ridden by usual pilot Tim Rooney, *Timber Tool* set a relentless gallop which soon had the field of nine runners – apart from *Katesville* – trailing in his wake.

"At one stage, around four fences from home, it looked as though *Timber Tool* was going to get clear of Katesville. However, *Katesville's* rider Tim Jones, conjured up a good run out of the nine-year-old and taking the lead two fences from home, went on to score by two lengths."

You can e-mail your horse racing stories/ pictures to brianlee4@virginmedia.com or contact him on 02920736438.

Pupils' black belts joy

VALE-based JSTKD Martial Arts and Fitness celebrated two more students achieving their Tae Kwon Do black belts, at the recent examinations held at the TAGB Headquarters in Bristol (Tae Kwon Do Assocation of GB).

Dedicated club members Menna Burmingham and Rian Thomas kept their focus and determination throughout the three hour examination which tested not only their ability to perform the 30 intricate movements of the black belt pattern but also step sparring, free sparring, floor work and breaking techniques.

In addition, they had to undertake a theory test to demonstrate their technical knowledge and command of Korean terminology.

In addition, Rhys Doel who achieved his black belt 1st Dan last year, undertook his first star grading and passed with flying colours.

Black belts who are under 16 years of age have to wait twice as long as adults between their Dan gradings so the star gradings are a way for juniors to continue to maintain high standards and perfect new skills during this waiting period.

There are three star gradings to achieve with each becoming more difficult than the last.

The terrific trio have been students at JSTKD from a young age and now assist the most junior students in the Ninja Kids classes (3-5 years) as well as adult beginners in the main training sessions.

JSTKD welcomes students of all ages and abilities with full details at www.jstkd.co.uk.

VW

Basketballers in action

THE Basketball Wales girls under-16 and under-18 teams are heading to the European Championships in July to represent their country.

These talented and ambitious girls spent Sunday, May 10, in Sainburys in Pontypriddd bag packing to raise funds for their trip.

The girls collected an incredible £734 thanks to the generosity and support of the people of Pontypridd. A special thank you to the smallest helpers, Eloise and Lili, who worked tirelessly all day to support the teams and to Sainsburys for hosting the fundraiser.

The under-16 Basketball Wales team include local girls Beth Edwards from Llandow and Emily Stradling from Porthcawl.

The teams are desperately in need of further funding to follow their dreams: if anyone would like to offer support, please contact Basketball Wales for information.

LM

Barrivale results

LATEST results from Barrivale Bridge Club for May 5:

1st Celia & Huw Thomas 60.00%; 2nd Kay Dyer & Irene Thomas 58.00%; 3rd Reg Dyer & Ken Hannah 57.00%; Reg Dyer and Ken Hannah won on handicap.

New members are always welcome at Barrivale. A partner may be arranged if required. If you would like to join us ring 01446 418380 or 01446 733425 or call at the Pioneer Hall, Beryl Road, Barry on Tuesdays at 7pm.

Alternatively beginners or improvers/new starters would be welcome on a Friday at 9.45am at the above address - please note there will be no Friday session on May 22.

DR

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DRAMATIC FINALE SEES BRYNTEG WIN THE CUP!

All smiles as Brynteg show off the Welsh Cup.

A dramatic final 10 minutes and a last gasp kick from openside flanker Kasari Mehta saw Brynteg crowned Year-9 under-14 Welsh cup champions, defeating Ysgol Gyfun Ystalyfera 25-24.

With 15 minutes to go, Brynteg were staring down the barrel of defeat at 24-8 down. Brynteg had got onto the scoreboard in the first half with a penalty from full back Sam Owen and a try from captain Cael Chamberlain, but went in at the interval 11-8 down after an impressive first half performance from Ystalyfera.

Brynteg started the second half well but the Swansea Valley outfit coped well with the onslaught and responded with a penalty and two further tries in quick succession.

With 15 minutes left on the clock it didn't look as though it was going to be Brynteg's afternoon until winger Connor Cunningham raced over for a try.

Brynteg's replacements made an immediate impact and good handling from centre pair Harry Ridge and Daniel O'Sullivan saw Cunningham get over for his second.

With two minutes to go Brynteg launched an attack from deep inside their own half and a fantastic attacking movement ended with captain Chamberlain crashing over!

Up stepped Mehta who sent the 250-strong travelling Brynteg support into a cheering frenzy as he landed his touchline conversion straight through the uprights.

With time left on the clock and time for the restart Mehta caught the ball superbly overhead and popped it off to centre Ridge who booted the ball off the field. The referee's final whistle followed and the Brynteg celebrations began!

The last time Brynteg had tasted a Welsh Cup victory was in 2008 when Welsh internationals Matthew Morgan and Tom Habberfield were in the side. Both former pupils came into Brynteg school the morning of the final to wish the team luck, present the match day jerseys and reminisce about their final triumph.

Brynteg's year-9 players and coaches would like to say a massive thank you to our match day sponsors for the final - CU Phosco, Autostop, South Wales Wood Recycling and Jan at the Village Diner.

If anyone is interested in sponsoring Brynteg rugby for the 2015/16 season please contact the school on 01656 641800 and ask to speak to Ben Thomas (school rugby officer).

Squad: Cael Chamberlain (captain), Fin Mullens, Gregor Harris, Harry Ridge, Connor Cunningham, Connor Fabian, Nathan Alexander, Sam Owen, Morgan Ingram, Jamie Marshall, Kasari Mehta, Dan Osarigie, Dan Keohane, Huw Evans, Rhys Sandford, Rhys Spurgeon, Marcus Perry, Jack Obbard, Ben Jones, Joe Jones, Sam Beckett, Jude Harrison, Jack Llewellyn, Macaulay Cook.

PD

Kenfig Hill shine at rugby festival!

Under-14s.

THE West Coast Festival of Rugby – Barnstaple, Devon – the UK's leading end of season festival, welcomed over 4,000 rugby players, coaches and families.

Kenfig Hill travelled with over 140 minis and juniors plus 200 coaches and family members. The 900-strong Sevenoaks contingent broke the world record for a single club rugby tour, but still lost to Kenfig Hill!

The opposition also included teams from Moseley, Chippingham, Cowbridge and Bryncoch.

Under-10s.

Kenfig Hill won the under-9s, under-10 and the under-14 age groups. In addition, the under-12s were runners-up and the under-13s were third.

An excellent set of results and a great time was had by all!

DHD

Under-9s.

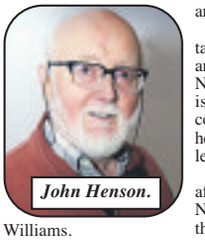
Bridgend bridge club: LATEST NEWS

THE club has had a busy and successful time over the past couple of weeks, both in league success and our charity work.

This season has seen several Bridgend teams join leagues for the first time. We have had mixed success in the Western Area League, but our one team in the East Wales League (playing in Division 2 of 3) is undefeated, winning all its league fixtures.

This team has now reached the semi-final of the cup, defeating two first division sides on the way, so remains undefeated. They are playing Royal Bullawayo, First Division champions and also undefeated, for a place in the final.

The team has really enjoyed playing in the east Wales competitions this year and can recommend it to other Bridgend players.



John Henson.

CHARITY CHEESE AND WINE

21 pairs enjoyed an excellent evening on Friday, May 8, and raised £225.20 on the night for our annual charity, which this year is supporting a Bridgend teenager's operation in the USA.

In addition, John Henson has raised £500 with his refreshment stall throughout the year, a magnificent effort, and the proceeds from Bill Turner's photo sales (£52) to the Nepal disaster fund.

This makes a grand total of £777.20. Well done to all members for this excellent fundraising effort, but particularly to John Henson, and also the organisers on the night, Marjorie Morris (food), David Newman (drink), Teresa Griffiths (glasses), Irene Thomas (raffle) and, of course, Glyn Williams, who directed with his usual aplomb.

The results for recent events are:

Wednesday, May 6, EBU Simultaneous Pairs: 1st John Beard and Liam Sheridan, 2nd Vida Halford and Glyn Williams, 3rd Rob Foreman and Alan Heath. Winners on handicap Vida Halford and Glyn Williams.

Thursday, May 7: 1st Colin Lewis and Susan Hunt, 2nd John Henson and Michael Williams, 3rd Rosalie Clode and John Evans. Friday, May 8, North/South: 1st Tony Disley and John Evans, 2nd Steve Burgoyne and Bill Turner, 3rd David Crompton and Dave Bowen. Winners on handicap David Crompton and Dave Bowen. East/West: 1st Simon and Debbie Richards, 2nd Marjorie Morris and Jane Brook, 3rd Vida Halford and Glyn Williams. Winners on handicap Dave Reed and Jim Hume.

Regular club nights take place on Wednesday and Friday evenings at Nolton Church Hall. Play is scheduled to commence at 7pm so it helps if players arrive at least 10 minutes early.

On Thursday afternoons at 2pm, also at Nolton Church Hall, there is a gentle duplicate session. Master points are now awarded but it remains a relaxed occasion where players enjoy their bridge. Further information can be obtained by calling Steve Burgoyne on 01656 661968, John Evans on 01656 880372 or David Newman on 01656 649138.

Members can also take advantage of the 'tip of the week on the club website, primarily to assist new players and improvers - this can be found under bridge lessons in the left hand menu.

TG

Quins say 'Let there be light'!

THE lights came on at Maesteg Harlequins (Tir Iarll) Rugby Football Club recently when their brand new floodlights were switched on.

Club chairman Robert Williams said: "We have huge ambitions for our club – both on and off the field. Maesteg Quins is maintaining an excellent standard of rugby with a squad of players and coaches of whom we are immensely proud. They deserve the best facilities and support we can offer, and installing effective and permanent floodlights at our ground at South Parade is the first step in our ambitions to enhance those facilities and support."

The club was founded, it is believed, some 100 years ago, and has climbed steadily from SWALEC Division 4 South West (where they were undefeated), through Division 3 in 2012 (where they were again undefeated).

Team coach Dean Ronan continued: "We are always looking for ways to improve facilities at the club. A year ago, we acquired a defibrillator. Our medical support is second to none and we believe we are leading the way as a rare breed of rugby club outside the top clubs in Wales, which aspires to the highest standards in player welfare and safety."

Club president Jimmy Nicholas commented: "My association with Maesteg Quins goes back many years and I'm thrilled to see the enthusiastic commitment from members and supporters to invest in club rugby at Maesteg Harlequins when so many rugby clubs across Wales are finding times difficult.

"I'd like to thank everyone who has contributed of their time and effort working closely with us to ensure that the Llynfi Valley will light up on winter evenings when we play or train at South Parade. Rugby enthusiasts from across the valley – and beyond – are welcome to visit us and enjoy our brand of rugby football."

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